

MAISON COUNTY CABIN

DRAWER 12

DECATUR

MAISON COUNTY

Illinois Decatur

Macon County Cabin

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Lincoln's Old Home.
(From the Century.)

Near the graveyard where Lincoln's father and stepmother rest, seven miles south of Charleston, Ill., in a place then known as Goose Nest, the Lincolns made their final settlement on removing from Indiana. Here Abraham Lincoln assisted his father in "getting settled," as they call it. He helped him build a log cabin and cleared for him a patch of ground, and when he saw him "under headway" in the new country, bade him goodbye and started north afoot.

One very old man told me that he once rode up to Thomas Lincoln's cabin and inquired if he could spend the night there. He was informed that the house afforded only two beds, and one of these belonged to a son who was then at home, but he would get the consent of this boy to take him in as a bedfellow, he could stay. The stranger dismounted, and soon found the six-foot boy in the back yard lying on a board reading. The boy consented, and the man slept with him that night. The boy was Abraham Lincoln, and the other never tires of telling how he spent the night with the future president.
—Sept. 15, 1892.

1892

tall walnut-trees of the primeval forest, enough rails to surround them with a fence. Little did either dream, while engaged in this work, that the day would come when the appearance of John Hanks in a public meeting, with two of these rails on his shoulder, would



From *The Life of Lincoln*, Ida M. Tarbell.

FIRST HOME IN ILLINOIS

Abe and John Hanks split the historic rails to surround this house and fifteen acres of ploughed land.

electrify a State convention, and kindle throughout the country a contagious and passionate enthusiasm, whose results would reach to endless generations.

Abraham Lincoln: A History, John G. Nicolay and John Hay, Vol. I, page 45.

Abe Starts Out for Himself

If they were far from being his "first and only rails," they certainly were the most famous ones he or anybody else ever split. This was the last work he did for his father, for in the summer of

that year (1830) he exercised the right of majority and started out to shift for himself. When he left his home he went empty-handed. He was already some months over twenty-one years of age, but he had nothing in the world, not even a suit of respectable clothes. . . . He had no trade, no profession, no spot of land, no patron, no influence. Two things recommended him to his neighbors—he was strong, and he was a good fellow.

His strength made him a valuable laborer. Not that he was fond of hard labor. Mrs. Crawford says: "Abe was no hand to pitch into work like killing snakes;" but when he did work it was with an ease and effectiveness which compensated his employer for the time he spent in practical jokes and extemporaneous speeches. He would lift as much as three ordinary men, and "My, how he would chop!" says Dennis Hanks. "His ax would flash and bite into a sugar tree, or sycamore, and down it would come. If you heard him fellin' trees in a clearin' you would say there was three men at work, by the way the trees fell."

His strength won him popularity, but his good nature, his wit, his skill in debate, his stories, were still more efficient in gaining him good-will. People liked to have him around, and voted him a good fellow to work with. Yet such were the conditions of his life at this time that, in spite of his popularity, nothing was open to him but hard manual labor. To take the first job which he happened upon—rail-splitting, plowing, lumbering, boating, store-keeping—and make the most of it, thankful if thereby he earned his bed and board and yearly suit of jeans, was apparently all there was before Abraham Lincoln in 1830, when he started out for himself.

The Early Life of Abraham Lincoln, Ida M. Tarbell, page 101.

A Thousand Rails for a Pair of Brown Jeans Trousers

Mr. George Close, the partner of Lincoln in the rail-splitting business, says that Lincoln was at this time a farm-laborer, working from day to day, for different people, chopping wood, mauling rails, or doing whatever was to be done. The country was poor, and hard work was the common lot; the heaviest share fell to young unmarried men, with whom it was a continual struggle to earn a livelihood. Lincoln and Mr. Close made about one thousand rails together for James Hawks and William Miller, receiving their pay in homespun

LINCOLN'S JOURNEY TO ILLINOIS HOME

REMINISCENCES OF WOMAN WHO CAME FROM KENTUCKY IN HIS PARTY

Among the most interesting reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln published in central Illinois recently are those of Mrs. Sarah Jane Dowling, who died in Charleston two years ago. They were printed some time ago in the Mattoon Star in an interview with John J. Hall, who lives south of Mattoon.

Mrs. Downing was a daughter of Dennis Hanks, who was a nephew of Nancy Hanks, the mother of Abraham Lincoln.

Mrs. Downing, then but eight years of age, remembered distinctly the incidents of the journey from Spencer county to Illinois. The party consisted she said, of Thomas Lincoln and his wife, Sarah Bush Johnson Lincoln, his son Abraham and his stepbrother, John D. Johnston; Dennis Hanks and wife, Sarah Elizabeth Johnson Hanks, and three children, Sarah, Jane, John and Harriet; Squire Hall and his wife, Matilda Johnston, Holland, their son, John J. Hall and also Joseph Hall, a brother of Squire Hall. Of this party there are still living Mrs. Harriet Chapman of Charleston and John Hanks of Day's Creek, Oregon, and John J. Hall, living on the old Lincoln homestead in Coles county.

Came to Decatur

The route followed by the party was by Vincennes, Ind., and Lawrenceville, Ill., up through Palestine and through the southern part of Clark and the western part of Coles county, near the site of Mattoon and thence direct to Decatur. Mrs. Dowling said that they lived in Macon county for about a year, when the chills and fever were so bad that they became discouraged and started back to Indiana. In the meantime Abraham Lincoln had left the party and started out in life for himself.

Thomas Lincoln located eight miles southeast of Mattoon and lived there the rest of his life with the exception of two years that he and Dennis Hanks ran a grist mill on the Embarrass river. This fact, Mr. Hall said, is not generally known. Thomas Lincoln moved back to the old home place, where he died in 1861, and is buried in the old Gordon graveyard, one and a half miles west. His second wife died in 1869, while she was living at the old home place with John J. Hall.

Father Not Illiterate

Mrs. Dowling said that there was no truth in the report which is made much of by some of the historians that the Lincolns were Catholics or that they had a leaning that way. She did remember that Thomas Lincoln and his wife, as well as the other members of the party that came to Illinois together belonged to what is now known as the Christian church. She also remembers distinctly that he was a constant reader of the Bible, and this fact is a refutation of the statement often made that he was entirely illiterate.

Of the four daughters of Dennis Hanks, Sarah, Jane married Thomas

Dowling; Nancy, James Shoaff; Amanda, A. C. Poorman; and Harriet, Augustus Chapman. James Shoaff was an editor of the Paris, Ill., Gazette at the time of his death.

Abe Lincoln a Peddler

According to the historians the party traveled from Indiana in a wagon belonging to Thomas Lincoln, which was the first he ever owned. The motive power consisted of four oxen. The weather was still cold, the streams swollen, and the roads muddy. Abraham Lincoln, before leaving, had invested all his money, some thirty odd dollars, in notions which he peddled along the way and doubled his money.

It was from Macon county that Abraham Lincoln went to Springfield, and Old Salem to take up his residence among the people with whom he grew to his full stature as a man and as a statesman.

According to the story of Mrs. Dowling the party traveled from Indiana in two wagons, and settled for a time on the Sangamon river, ten miles southwest of Decatur and near the old Whitley mill, where Abe Lincoln built his cabin. One wagon was drawn by oxen and the other by horses, the latter wagon being occupied by the Hall and Hanks family. The men of the party walked most of the way and each carried an axe which they used to cut their way through brush and to build temporary bridges across creeks and sloughs. Among the men that walked were the three Halls, Squire Alfred and Joseph; Dennis Hanks and Abraham Lincoln. "Uncle" Thomas Lincoln attended to the welfare of the teams and the women and children of the party.

Reason For Distinction

The reason assigned for the company moving to the Sangamon county of Illinois, was that John Hanks, (sometimes called "Uncle Johnny") a cousin of Dennis Hanks and Abraham Lincoln, had moved there with his family some time before and from accounts sent back by him the others were induced to follow.

Speaking of the family history it is said that Dennis Hanks and Squire Hall married two of the Johnston sisters, who were step-sisters of Lincoln, and were thus his brother-in-law. Squire Hall and his wife Matilda, and John D. Johnston and his wife are buried in the old Gordon graveyard, where Thomas Lincoln and his wife are buried. Dennis Hanks and his wife Elizabeth, are buried in the old graveyard at Charleston. John D. Johnston had three sons in the civil war, one of them, Charles serving in Colonel Oglesby's regiment, the Eighth Illinois.

American Press Information Bureau

106 & 108 Fulton Street, New York City

MARK PRAIRIE ROUTE LINCOLN TROD TO FAME

Auto Pilgrims Dedicate Twelve Tablets.

BY J. L. JENKINS. ¹⁷⁶

[Chicago Tribune Press Service.]

Petersburg, Ill., Aug. 27.—[Special.]—Down ancient Illinois lanes, where Lincoln labored and loved nearly a century ago, forty cars fought their way through smothering clouds of dust today to do him honor and to win for his memory a highway monument.

The pilgrimages, arranged by the Lincoln Memorial Highway association, as a dedication tour for the twelve new tablets which mark the prairie route so often traveled by Abraham Lincoln in his struggle to the heights brought a new impetus to the campaign for a \$2,000,000 congressional appropriation and paving of the historic road.

Bill Now in Congress.

A bill authorizing the construction of this 50 mile memorial highway, which follows the old Beardstown-Chandlerville-New Salem-Petersburg-Springfield trail, has been introduced in congress and, according to its backers, will be passed at the coming session.

It creates in 20 foot slabs of concrete, available to the automobile world, a new national shrine.

Today's promotional demonstration began in Beardstown, with Congressmen H. R. Rathbone and Henry T. Rainey the principal speakers, and a score of leading men in central Illinois riding in the vanguard. It ended late tonight in this friendly little town. Several thousand persons trudged through the fierce summer heat and fiercer prairie dust to stand in reverence over the spots sacred to the emancipator's memory and to listen to the stories of his life in the pioneer days of the state.

All Ages Represented.

In the long procession of automobiles on the winding trail that Lincoln followed in his circuit riding days, in his courtship of Ann Rutledge, and in his later political duels, were Illinois people ranging from children in arms and flappers of the modern school to folks of the Lincoln age.

The memorial highway committee, which is preparing to organize nationally for the construction campaign, includes W. A. McNall of Chandlerville, president; G. W. Morton of Beardstown, secretary; Homer J. Tice, treasurer; A. L. Lucas of Chandlerville, historian, and Sam Thompson and Harry Beekman of Petersburg.

The first tablet is at Beardstown, the scene of the Duff Armstrong trial, where Lincoln used an almanac to clear the defendant. It was here, too, that Lincoln was made a captain in the Blackhawk war, and where he held one of his debates with Stephen A. Douglas.

Sudbrink Farm Marked.

2 The second tablet points out Sudbrink farm where Lincoln and Douglas met again in their historic campaign. The third is in Chandlerville, the original survey of which was made by Lincoln.

3 From Chandlerville the caravan proceeded to Shick Shack Knob, the Sangamon Valley hill where Lincoln, as an infantry officer, made his first military encampment, and where he won the friendship of Chief Shick Shack, of the Sangamos.

After demonstration at the McGinnis—Purdy Ferry and Deer Lick Springs, the pilgrimage roared on to Oakford, where the entire village turned out to honor the home of the Armstrongs and serve drinks to the pilgrims.

Next came Huron, the site of the one house village surveyed and recorded by Lincoln, and the David Rice Short farm, where he made headquarters in his surveying days.

The old Rutledge home was next reached, the scene of Lincoln's tragic romance. It was here that Ann Rutledge, his first and deepest love, was wooed and lost and where he mourned in solitude for the sweetheart snatched from him by death. The pilgrimage ended in old Salem Park, with a mass meeting arranged by Petersburg citizens.

THE UNVEILING OF THE KELLEY CABIN MARKER DEC. 3, 1927

BY ALTA MAE SPEULDA

The first cold blast of winter greeted the patriotic throng which gathered on the afternoon of Dec. 3, 1927, to pay homage to the first settler of Springfield, who braved the hardships of pioneer life, to recall the brief, picturesque career of John Kelley, and mark the spot where stood his cabin, the first home-site in Springfield.

The co-operation of the Illinois State Historical Society, with the Springfield Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution on this memorable occasion, on this the 109th birthday of the State of Illinois, reflects great credit upon its Librarian, Miss Georgia L. Osborne, under whose direction the research work was done, and Mrs. Isaac D. Rawlings, the regent of Springfield Chapter who gave untiringly of herself that this project might be accomplished.

One of the fundamental principles of the organization of the Daughters of the American Revolution is to mark historic spots, not to lose sight of places whose historic value has illumined the way of progress and to give honor to those pioneers who have sacrificed and made it possible that the present generation might enjoy all the wonderful works of God and the achievements of man.

Resolution authorizing the Springfield Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution to mark the site of the first cabin built in Springfield,—

Whereas, the first cabin in Springfield (known as Kelley's cabin) was erected on the property now generally known as the northwest corner of Klein and Jefferson Streets, and

Whereas, the Daughters of the American Revolution are perpetuating these historic spots with suitable markers, now therefore

LINCOLN HISTORY IS RECORDED IN STATE JOURNAL

Old Copies Of Newspaper
Are Exhibited In Myers'
Window.

An historical exhibit of much interest to the public and particularly appropriate in connection with the observance of Lincoln's birthday anniversary appears in one of the main show windows of Myers Brothers' store at Fifth and Washington streets. Bound volumes of old time issues of The State Journal are shown, opened at dates of issue when some of the most important and critical questions of the country's existence was being considered and solved.

In addition to the historical volumes, a number of beautiful silk flags of Sangamon post No. 32, American legion, form a background for the exhibit. Interest is attracted at once by volume No. 1 of the The Sangamon Journal, pioneer ancestor of the present paper, edited at its inception by S. and J. Francis. The first issue appeared Nov. 10, 1831. The volume is opened at the issue of May 3, 1832, where an appeal for volunteers is made by Brig. Gen. H. Atkinson. The Black Hawk uprising was assuming threatening proportions and General Atkinson, in a letter to the public, set forth the seriousness of the situation and asked for volunteers.

An account of the marriage of Lincoln is given in the issue of Nov. 11, 1832, another issue on Sept. 10, 1853 gives an extended account of one of the Lincoln-Douglas debates. A strong endorsement

of Abraham Lincoln for president appears under date of Nov. 5, 1860.

Under the head of "Startling Intelligence," a column on the editorial page of the issue of April 15, 1865, tells of the assassination of Lincoln and the treason in political life in the nation's capital. Black column-ruled throughout the issue of May 4, 1866, give to the appearance of the paper a sombre tone and the story of the arrival of the martyred

president's body in Springfield is told in simple, well chosen words. The order of the funeral procession and the ceremonies in connection with the interment of the remains were fully given.

Our Log Courthouse

Perma Enslin a.m. 5.1929

Decatur Daily Review.

The log court house in Fairview park never fails to interest visitors to Decatur. It has long been prized as a great treasure and if Mark Sullivan, The Review's Washington correspondent should visit Decatur he undoubtedly would find great pleasure in viewing it, and agree that it is priceless.

Mr. Sullivan in his special article on this page today declares:

"If the writer of this article had his way, no log cabin now standing in the United States would ever be razed."

The entire Sullivan article is worth reading. There are a number of suggestions that might be followed in Decatur and community. Just now there is a movement growing for a Lincoln Memorial highway. It is pointed out that a house on the Mt. Auburn road was visited by Lincoln, in fact was one of his chief places to visit when he lived north of the river. The place should never be allowed to disappear.

At one time there was a mill on Stevens Creek on ground now owned by the Park Board. That mill might be reconstructed to stand as a monument to one of the earliest settlements in Macon county and the start of Decatur. It would be a real contribution to the history of Decatur, an interesting exhibit for those of us who have never seen an old grist mill and above all it would be a real centennial contribution.

Undoubtedly there are letters and historic objects about Decatur that can be used in giving Decatur an interesting exhibit of early Decatur for its centennial celebration. It maybe that Decatur will want to make it a permanent exhibit. It would be well worth while.

WHEN LINCOLN VISITED THE HOME FOLKS

BY FRED L. HOLMES

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Madison, Wis., 21 February, 1929.
Mr. Adolf Sumerlin, Lerna, Ill.—You are granted permission to reprint my tale from the February issue of La Follette's on "Lincoln Visits the Home Folks."

My reason for copyrighting the article was because it is to appear in a book have just finished on Lincoln. But the people of your vicinity are engaged in a Lincoln project which has my heart and soul endorsement. For this reason I am releasing the article to you for immediate publication. My tour to Lerna and the Shiloh Church vicinity will never be forgotten if others can be inspired by my article to go there for a visit my efforts in lying it will be more than compensated.

Please keep me in touch with any new developments.
Very truly yours,
FRED L. HOLMES, Managing Editor.



The Log Cabin in which Thomas Lincoln died in 1851.

During the fall of 1928, accompanied by Henry A. Huber, lieutenant governor of Wisconsin, Mr. Holmes made an automobile trip through the Lincoln country visiting places associated with the Illinois life of the great president. Among the places that impressed both were the rural home scenes of Mr. Lincoln's father and stepmother, south of Mattoon, near Lerna, Illinois. After Mr. Lincoln was elected president, when office-seekers and the approaching problems beset him at every turn, he broke away and traveled unattended back to the old farm to spend a few days with his stepmother. The information gathered in the community, much of it never before published, makes Mr. Holmes' article a contribution to Lincoln literature.—EDITOR'S NOTE.

Twelve miles south of Mattoon, Illinois, in the old Gordon Cemetery near Shiloh church, are the graves

of a meek man and woman—a father and stepmother. Over them rises an unpolished granite block which bears the single eulogy:—

"Their humble but worthy home gave Abraham Lincoln to the world."

From a pilgrims there I believe one may learn more of the innate kindness of their son than could be gained by hours of reading. To this spot came Abraham Lincoln on his last trip into the country before he journeyed to Washington to take the oath as President of the United States. His father had been dead ten years, but Sarah Bush Lincoln at 73 welcomed her stepchild to her two-room log cabin with a love known only to mothers. When he went away he was never to return.

Remembered His Stepmother.

The tour of this secluded country teems with an absorbing interest to one familiar with Lincoln's life. His thoughts were here more often than his feet trod their fields. Here are glimpsed vistas little known to historians. The zealous protection Lincoln gave to his stepmother naturally enhances one's admiration of him illuminating the weed-fringed roadside which passes her now obliterated home. Rise as he did in power and influence to a pinnacle the home folk could not comprehend, he nevertheless did not forget them. Even in the hour of his greatest success his thoughts turned to the foster mother with white hair in the log cabin near Farmington. It was the little things he did that helps to make his memory imperishable.

This last visit was the culmination of a number of efforts which Abraham Lincoln had made to improve the circumstances of his family. They were a restless people, hoping with each turn of circumstance would come ease and prosperity. Within a year after their first Illinois settlement, near Decatur, in 1830, they had moved sixty miles away into Coles county, to a farm near the present village of Lerna, south of Mattoon and Charleston. It was to this homestead that Lincoln returned following his flatboat trip to New Orleans in 1831 before going to New Salem to become a store clerk. In a few years another move was made within the community and finally to the acres near Farmington, a crossroads hamlet where his father lived until his death in 1851.

Never Forgot Old Folk.

Many were the times when the attentions of Mr. Lincoln were turned to a remembrance of home folk. On one occasion William G. Greene, his New Salem chum, was going to Kentucky for a visit; and Lincoln induced him to carry a letter to his parents, suggesting that it would be a good place to spend the night.

"You're welcome, heartily welcome," said Thomas Lincoln, when told he came bearing a message from his son. "I suppose Abe's still a fool; himself with education. I tried to stop it, but he's got that fool idee in his head an' it can't be got out. Now I ain't got no education, but I get along better than a first hand."

The family gave him many worries. When John D. Johnston, his stepbrother, who lived with the old folks, attempted to borrow \$80, Lincoln advised him to go to work and that for every dollar he earned Lincoln would give him another dollar. He attempted to stir him to ambition.

"Let father and the boys take charge of thine at home," he wrote Johnston.

"Prepare for a crop and make a crop; and you go to work for the best money wages—or in discharge of any debt that you can get; and to secure you a fair reward for your labor, I now promise you that for every dollar you will, between this and the first of next May, get for your labor, either as money or discharging your own indebtedness, I will give you that for every dollar you will, if you hire yourself at ten dollars a month, from now you will get ten more, making twenty dollars a month for your work. In this I do not mean you should go off to St. Louis, or the lead mines, or the gold mines of California, but I mean for you to go to it for the best wages you can get close to home in Coles county."

Father Asked For Little

No such appeals to ambition were made to his father. Age seems to have made him more contented. Thomas Lincoln worked as a farmer and carpenter to the end. Recollections among the people on Goose Neck Prairie, where he lived the last twenty years of his life, speak of him as a "good neighbor." There was no brilliant, but he was kind; he was not ambitious, neither was he lazy. Physically short and stout, he was always in good health until his last illness, which came upon him late in the fall of 1850. Word was sent to his son advising him of his serious condition. A few days before his death there came a letter from Abraham so filled with religious piety that one who could call him an atheist must convict him of being a hypocrite.

"I sincerely hope father may recover his health; but at all events let him remember to call upon, and confide in our great and merciful maker, who will be true to him in any extremity." He notes the fall of the narrow, and number of the hairs of our heads, and he will not forget the dying man who puts his trust in Him. Say to him that, if we could meet, now, it is doubtful whether it would be more painful than pleasant but if it is his lot to go now, he will soon have a joyful meeting with loved ones gone before, and where the rest of us, through the mercy of God, hope are long to join them."

Saves the Home Property

In the year that followed his father's death it was the courage of Abraham Lincoln that saved his stepmother's property from being dissipated. Her son wanted to sell the farm, including her dower interests. He dreamed of moving to Missouri and with the money from the sale begin all over. Mr. Lincoln wrote from Springfield, November 25, 1851, to John D. Johnston:

"She now has the use of the whole east forty, as long as she lives, and if he be sold she is entitled to the interest of all of the money it brings as long as she lives; but you propose to sell it for three from the sale begin all over. Mr. Lincoln wrote from Springfield, November 25, 1851, to John D. Johnston:

"Let father and the boys take charge of thine at home," he wrote Johnston.

Such a determined attitude held the Lincoln farm intact. It was to this place that the president-elect came on his final visit. All witnesses of the event are now gone, but trees and shrubs cared for by the family speak in noble eloquence of home frugality. If you really want to know the simplicity of Abraham Lincoln, if you desire to mingle with the people he understood and loved, then visit as I did, the Shiloh country churchyard two miles from the old home, on a bright Sunday afternoon. There in the shadows of the red brick church gather the gentle country folk to speak in tenderness and love of the departed. There they stand on ground where Lincoln stood. There they linger about the tombs with a freedom of intimate companionship. There in a prairie of fields and stream and pasture hillside will find a contentment, the quiet of sublime understanding. Somehow one feels as he walks among them that he is very near to the heart of Lincoln and his people.

Way Should be Marked

Even with the improvements of rural highways it is still a difficult undertaking to reach the country. I lost the way several times. Attempts to mark the route in recent years have not been entirely successful. There are too many side roads to lead one astray. It was not until the spring of 1923, at the suggestion of Wayne Townley of Bloomington, district governor of the Lions Club, that the trail was outlined and a year later through the combined efforts of Lions Clubs all over Illinois that a monument was raised over the graves. There was a monument on the lot erected many years before by Robert T. Lincoln, a grandson, but souvenir hunters had chipped away its corners and a part of the surface. This has been moved to the entrance of the cemetery.

In co-operation with state highway officials, it is planned ultimately to develop the Thomas Lincoln Trail, marked by an orange circle in which are written "T. L. T." so that starting at Mattoon it will pass by Buck's Grove, where Thomas Lincoln in 1831 built his first log cabin in Pleasant Grove township; through the village of Lerna, where one-half mile south are the foundation rocks on which he built his second log cabin in 1834; along the road by Shiloh Cemetery, where Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Lincoln are buried, and two miles further southeastward to the Lincoln farm, where the father and stepmother of the president died. The three Lincoln cabins in the neighborhood disappeared long ago. Nature has again draped these sacred sites with vine and grass; their history is as a tale.

Home Site Is Marked

Traveling eastward from the cemetery one mile, the road forks left and right into what is known as the Charleston-Greentop highway, over which Lincoln traveled. The left turn northward takes one to Charleston through Farmington. To the east, along the road leading south, less than a mile is the Thomas Lincoln homestead of one hundred twenty acres—a rectangular field eighty rods north and south and two hundred forty rods east and west. The D. A. K. of Charleston has placed a descriptive tablet beside the highway near the

farm's northwestern corner.

Soon I began to observe homely things—fences and crops that must give satisfaction to a landowner. The country was rolling. We walked up the long southern margin of the field characterized with lands open and productive. There was a music in earth and sunshine that was soft and loitering. I recall that the air had its own penetrating odor, perfumes of grass and corn. In the ramble was a deserted farm home, brown and weather beaten. Two ravines cross the Lincoln acres, making a pleasing shift in the landscape. There are few trees. Shrubs grow around the cabin site from which we viewed level vistas under cultivation. The blue skyline of the afternoon melts into a yellow horizon—a typical agricultural landscape. Examining the ground we found eight-angled markings of the cabin foundation nearly twelve rods back from the roadway. The soil pressed mellow underfoot which I thought was significant of its fecundity. Maybe I am overglorifying this country, but I liked its lands, its verdant pastures and its growing crops. "Who owns the Lincoln farm now?" I inquired of a neighbor.

"There are three owners," he responded. "I sensed in his exultant tone that he was one of them."

To Restore Log Cabin

"The Chamber of Commerce of Charleston and Mattoon has purchased one parcel; William Phipps a second, but the eighteen acres where the log cabin stood is owned by John Martin of Sullivan, Illinois. The Shiloh Lincoln Memorial Club of Janesville has plans for purchase of the Martin property with a view of transforming it into a public park in which on the original spot will be erected a replica of the Lincoln log cabin as it appeared when Mr. Lincoln came for his visit."

As I toured along these roads away from the noise of railroad and city, I thought of the Lincoln family and their deserted farms and I pitied them with a sad heart. They had claimed the land, toiled hard for a living, but how little of their story is remembered! There is not even a picture of Thomas Lincoln, and only one of the step-mother.

One other scene is etched like a pageant of triumph in the story of this common country side. Can you see the thoughtful, melancholy Lincoln, before he takes the helm of government, as he comes here on a visit? Can you picture the words of comfort, the "I pray, downcast feelings that must have swept him as he measured their uneventful lives? Maybe it was these scenes that later rose in memory to give courage to a harassed son.

Joe Cannon Met Lincoln

Anyway, as the time for his departure for Washington neared, Abraham Lincoln became more anxious to see his stepmother and her daughters. Accompanied part of the way by Henry C. Whitney, an old-time circuit-riding friend, they took the train at Springfield on February 1st, for Topeka where a change was made to reach Mattoon and another change for Charleston. Short as the distance now seems, it was a trip that then required an entire day. Throughout the route, the people were anxious to greet the president-elect and had little time to himself. One man

he met long remembered the occasion. Joseph G. Cannon, many years after speaker of the House of Representatives, was a young lawyer, has recalled the incident with great satisfaction.

"Already there were threats of war, of secession and of an insurrection, but he was the same cordial, unassuming, seemingly common-place man," reminisced Mr. Cannon. "I was on the train going from Tuscola to Mattoon and met Mr. Lincoln, who was also on that train, going to Charleston to pay a visit to his stepmother, who lived at Farmington, a few miles from that place. He was of course the most distinguished man on the train and was constantly surrounded by people who wanted to shake hands and have a word with him. But he was just one of the passengers in the day coach. He had no bodyguard. I exchanged only a few words with him because everyone was so anxious to meet him."

The train missed connections at Mattoon and Lincoln had to take a freight car to Charleston, where he was to spend the night at the home of Colonel A. H. Chapman, who was married to a daughter of Denali Hawks a compulsion from boyhood. Awaiting the train at the Charleston depot was James A. Connolly, for many years after a practicing lawyer at Springfield.

"When the train finally drew in and stopped, the locomotive was almost opposite the station, and the engine, or car that carried the passengers, was some distance down the track," related Mr. Connolly years after. "Presently looking in that direction we saw a tall man, wearing a coat or shawl, descend from the steps of the car and patiently make his way through the slush and ice beside the track as far as the station platform. I think he wore a plug hat. I remember I was surprised that a railroad company, with so distinguished a passenger aboard its train as the president-elect of the United States, did not manifest interest enough in his dignity and comfort to deliver him at the station instead of dropping him off in the mud several hundred feet down the track."

Carried a Carpet Bag.

After shaking hands with a few friends Mr. Lincoln, carrying his well-worn carpet bag, left for the home of Colonel Chapman, where many people gathered that evening at an informal reception. The next morning Lincoln and Chapman got into a two-horse huggy and drove to Farmington.

There is no one to tell us of the home reception that afternoon in February when Abraham Lincoln came back to his people. From the doorway of her earth-colored log cabin, whose timbers bore the distinct mark of the axe, the anxious mother watched him arrive. In the gladness of the meeting there must have been tears. As inevitable the tragic touch is always present in such a reunion, shadowed by the men

ories of those who have departed. They talked into the night of things known only to the fireside. Two days or more were spent among the neighbors. Once he drove to the home of Isaac Rodgers and asked him to care for his father's grave during his absence. For more than sixty years members of the Rodgers family discharged this sacred duty until in 1925 the Shiloh Lincoln Memorial Club of Janesville was organized to perpetuate the trust.

"Lincoln came to my father's home in February, 1861, before he was inaugurated, and asked my father to go with him to his father's grave," recalled Mrs. Susan D. Baker, Mr. Rodgers' daughter, in a memoir prepared shortly before her death in 1927.

"They went over to the old cemetery where Lincoln stood by his father's grave and went, saying that the country was approaching a critical time and that he never expected to get back here again and he never did."

Three Friends Remember

Next day Mrs. Lincoln returned with him to Charleston. On the way they stopped at a little, one-story frame house in Farmington for dinner. As the years rolled by this building has become a mecca, recently marked by a tablet. It appears much as it did in Lincoln's day.

"There are three men still living who as children in school saw Mr. Lincoln that day, R. B. Rodgers, Janesville, the secretary of the Shiloh Lincoln Memorial Club, told me. "The others: Thomas Allison, Charleston; John Best, Janesville, and George Balch, Lerna, all living in the immediate neighborhood."

Not until I had a picture of these three friends of Lincoln taken before the Farmington wayside place was I content. The building with its narrow clapboards, stubby chimney protruding above the ridgepole, low roof, and narrow porch seemed so fitting a landmark to Lincoln's simplicity that I felt happy to have traveled that way. The nearly seventy years have not dimmed the precious recollections of these three men, who as school boys shook hands with the president-elect and heard his few words of encouragement before he left for Charleston. There he parted with his stepmother, who said that something told her they would never again meet.

"God bless you and keep you, my good son," she sobbed. But Lincoln's eyes were blurred with tears and his voice choked to give further answer. He disappeared down the street.

Both were to face an unenviable Gethsemane. She to be persecuted in war hatred by men who were to fall in their wicked designs to convert her to a slavery which might dishonor her son. He had so many worries that he never learned of hers. Four years went by and then neighbors came and told her that he had "gone the way to martyrdom."

Lincoln Cabin on Boston Common

June 1929 7-26-29

Thomas B. Shoaff of Shelbyville told The Herald Tuesday, that he was willing to make an affidavit that the Lincoln cabin from the Harristown bottoms was exhibited on Boston Common in 1865.

"I'll swear to it," was Mr. Shoaff's answer to the statment of the Massachusetts Historical society published in the Continental edition of The Herald.

Society Has no Record of Cabin

Requesting the truth about the story, The Herald wrote to the Society and had this reply from the librarian, Julius T. Tuttle:

"I am sorry to say that I am unable to find any reference to the exhibit on Boston common of Lincoln's cabin in the '60's or any other time. An important event of that kind, if it happened, would have found its way into the records of this region."

In reply, Mr. Shoaff has invited The Herald to search the records of the Boston City council for the premit that his father, James Shoaff of Decatur secured for the exhibition of Lincoln's first home in Illinois.

"I was 18 years old in 1865" said Mr. Shoaff, "and was publishing my first newspaper, 'The Boy About Town,' the year before. I remember the incident clearly. Father had the logs numbered and shipped to Boston. Later I expressed walnut rails taken from the cabin sight to Boston, and the express charge was \$14. These rails were fashioned into souvenirs and sold. Dennis Hanks, my mother's father, and John Hanks went along with father."

Later in Chicago

"Grandfather Dennis Hanks has told me many times how people wept on seeing the cabin. It was soon after

Lincoln's assassination, either June, July or August, 1865. For several months father was with the cabin.

"The cabin was later shipped to Chicago and there exhibited. It passed out of father's hands and was supposed to have been shipped to England and lost in the passage. Of course, the story that the cabin was exhibited in the centennial exhibition in Philadelphia in 1876 is a fake."

Has Photograph

Mr. Shoaff has a picture of the cabin with Dennis and John Hanks standing in front of the cabin, and on the back the certification that it is a true picture.

Mr. Shoaff says while attending Memorial Service at the Shilo Cemetery in Coles county, on Decoration Day, where Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln, and his stepmother, Sarah Bush Johnston are buried, he met Mrs. Eleanor Gridley, 5834 Harper Avenue, Chicago, who delivered an address, "Lincoln from the Cradle to the Grave, who says she paid \$25 for the same picture which bore the date, 1861. Mr. Shoaff told her that she had been imposed upon, since the picture was not taken until four years later, and that fraud is being practiced by changing the date, 1865 to 1861, and claiming that it was shown on the Boston Common in that year.

Affidavit Sworn to

I, Thomas Benton Shoaff, being duly sworn deposes and says that the foregoing interview in part, published in the Decatur Herald July 10, 1929, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

THOMAS BENTON SHOAFF,
Shelbyville, Ill., July 15, 1929.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of July, A. D. 1929.

E. A. JOHNSTON,
County Clerk, Shelby Co., Ill.

CLUBS SPONSOR 51-MILE PARK IN COOK COUNTY

Propose National Play- ground as Memorial to Lincoln.

A movement is under way by improvement clubs throughout the city for the creation of a great national park, a memorial to Abraham Lincoln, extending fifty-one miles north from Riverside through the Des Plaines river valley, and doubling the present area of the Cook county forest preserves.

D. E. Ward, president of the Association of '93-ers, and Charles E. Miller, chairman of the board of the Amalgamated Improvement clubs, which organizations are sponsoring the proposed national playground, outlined their scheme to the Northwest Property Owners' association at Norwood Park last night.

The project would probably cost more than \$35,000,000, according to Miller, who said he is seeking to have the federal government acquire the virgin territory on both banks of the Des Plaines river, which is not already in use by the county.

The scheme would also provide for the diversion of enough water from Lake Michigan to give a pure flow to the Des Plaines river and raise its level about six inches. The water would be taken from the lake in a conduit or a shallow channel at a point north of Wilmette, according to Miller's plans.

The associations backing the proposed park will continue their public meetings and promote interest in the development pending government action, Miller said.

Plan New Park 51 Miles Long

CHICAGO, Aug. 10.—A 51-mile park, carved out of the Illinois prairies and timberland that nurtured young Abe Lincoln, is being contemplated as a memorial to the martyr President.

Proposal that the park be established was made at a meeting Friday night at Norwood Park. President D. E. Ward of the Association of '93-ers, and Charles E. Miller, chairman of the board of Amalgamated Improvement Clubs, outlined plans for the memorial to the property owners.

Creation of the great national park, extending 51 miles north from Riverside through the Des Plaines River Valley, would double the present area of the county forest preserves.

The project would probably cost more than \$35,000,000, according to Mr. Miller, who asserted he has suggested to the government that the virgin territory on both sides of the river which is not now in possession of the county be acquired for the park.

SYRACUSE N. Y. AMERICAN
AUGUST 14, 1929

CHICAGO ILL NEWS
SATURDAY, JULY 27, 1929.

The Lincoln Shrine in Macon County.

One hundred years ago this coming March Abraham Lincoln arrived in Macon county. With his father he established his first Illinois home on the banks of the Sangamon river in Harristown township. There Lincoln lived for one year, leaving in the spring of 1831 to make his own way while his father moved to Coles county.

Today the site of the cabin is marked by a granite boulder, placed by the Decatur chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Only recently the Lincoln National Memorial Highway association discussed plans to blaze a trail to this Lincoln homestead site from the Lincoln Memorial highway south of the river.

Twenty-five years ago T. G. Scroggin, who owned the land at that time, on which the Lincoln cabin stood, proposed that several acres of the land be purchased by public subscription and that it be made into a Lincoln Shrine. Scores of prominent persons and historians had visited the place. Mr. Scroggin recognized its historic value to Macon county, to Illinois and the United States. He refused to divide his farm for any other purpose but would sell this if it was to be maintained as the Lincoln homestead site.

The land was not bought for that purpose. The cabin that Lincoln and his father built was moved out of the county in 1865 before the county realized its great worth. Today we have the old Warnick homestead where Lincoln visited. We have a marker on the Lincoln circuit, a tablet to tell where the wigwam stood, a Lincoln Square, a Lincoln collection in the library, but no outstanding Lincoln Shrine such as the Lincoln history of Macon county deserves.

It is not too late for Macon county or the state of Illinois to preserve for posterity the first Lincoln homestead in Illinois. A replica of the cabin can be erected, rail fences restored. The centennial anniversary of Lincoln's coming to Illinois would be a most appropriate time for the dedication of such a shrine.

Review
Decatur Ill.
8-18-29

Lincoln Markers

Charleston News.

A committee of the Lincoln Memorial Trail is putting up nine signs or markers over town designating places where Abraham Lincoln was active as a lawyer and statesman. Among the signs will be one on the north side of Monroe and Fifth where Dennis Hanks once lived, one at Sixth and Monroe, the site of the old Bunnel tavern where Abe stayed all night after the debate with Douglas, one at the court house where he lost his runaway slave case, and one on the Daily News corner where Abe was given a reception after his election to the presidency, in the old Mount & Hill hall which was destroyed by fire in 1923. The signs are made of wood with painted lettering, but may be later replaced by bronze tablets.

Lincoln Trail Medal

Mattoon, Ill., Sept. 19.—Donald Gordon, Eagle Scout of Troop No. 1, a son of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Gordon, has received a medal from the Springfield council of Scouts for traversing the twenty-three mile Lincoln trail from Old Salem to Springfield.

This medal is the first one issued to a Mattoon Scout and is the one hundred and seventy-fifth medal awarded for walking the trail, and reading a history of the Great Emancipator.

On one side of the medal is inscribed "Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1865" and on the other side, "Scout D. Gordon; Walked in Lincoln's footsteps; 8-24-29."

Donald lost five pounds on the long hike, which he completed in six and one-half hours.

The medal was received today by Scout Executive Raper for presentation to Donald.

Lincoln Highway Markers

The new Lincoln Trail markers were distributed Tuesday. They will be erected all the way across the county from West York to Blue Mound. The one at Weir was erected Tuesday and the rest will be erected within a few days. All the work is being done by local men, under the auspices of the Martinsville Lincoln Memorial Highway Association.

Two markers, bearing enough printed matter to make a fair sized billboard, which were placed on the National road, one in Greenup and one at the bridge west of Greenup stating that, this is the way the Lincolns went, etc., will be taken down, according to highway officials. Those having the markers set were evidently unaware that it is necessary to first get permission from the state before proceeding with such work.—Martinsville Planet.

Visits Shiloh Cemetery.

Ye editor and wife drove down to Shiloh cemetery Sunday and for the first time viewed the resting place of the parents of Abraham Lincoln. One glance at the cemetery convinces you that it is an old one, the stones in the west part of the cemetery being old and odd in design. We noticed one stone where an interment was made in 1832, and no doubt there are older graves in this sacred spot. The original monument at the Lincoln graves, a tall marble shaft, has been moved to one side and a handsome monument erected by the Kiwanis and Lions Club. Souvenir hunters have chipped away a large portion of the base of the original Lincoln monument which is now enclosed with a wire fence.

Shiloh cemetery is only about twelve miles south of Charleston, the roads are fairly good all the way from Charleston and you feel well repaid for the visit to this spot.

Arthur Mathews says he was reared by the Gordon family near this cemetery and that his grandparents were neighbors and friends of the Lincolns.—Oakland Messenger.

Memorial to Lincoln and Nancy Hanks.

Creation of an Indiana Lincoln Memorial commission to construct a memorial to Abraham Lincoln and his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, at the site of the latter's grave near Lincoln City, Spencer county, Indiana, was asked in a joint resolution introduced Thursday afternoon by Senator Robinson of Indiana says a Washington dispatch.

An appropriation of \$500,000 would be provided and the State of Indiana would furnish the site and maintain the memorial. The commission would be composed of 15, three appointed by the President, three senators, three representatives and six members of the Indiana Lincoln Union, with which the commission would co-operate in the work.

Headquarters of the Indiana Lincoln Union, at Indianapolis Thursday announced that \$300,000 had been pledged by popular subscription in Indiana to erect a memorial at Lincoln City. With this fund, some of which is not yet due, the union expects to complete the work of landscaping the site.

If the joint resolution introduced by Senator Robinson, calling for an appropriation of \$500,000, succeeds of passage, the original memorial designed by Thomas Hibben will be built, officials of the Lincoln Union said.

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1929

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MARKER FURNISHES MYSTERY



Mrs. Eleanor Gridley with stone found near the former exhibition ground of Libby prison, on the site of the present Coliseum.

[By a staff photographer.]

JACK DEMPSEY and the officers of the Abraham Lincoln Log Cabin association are equally stumped as to the former function of a 500-pound stone marker found near the former exhibition ground of Libby prison, on the site of the present Chicago Coliseum. It is marked "L 25," and looks like a gravestone.

Dempsey happened along just after Mrs. Queen Gridley Thomas, secretary of the association, had discovered it, but neither he nor the antiquarians of the association were sure what it was.

Mrs. Thomas had accompanied her mother, Mrs. Eleanor Gridley, the original secretary of the association, on a search hoping to find a stray log of the cabin built by Abraham Lincoln and his father on Goose Nest Prairie in Illinois.

The cabin was brought to Chicago in the '90s and set up for exhibition on the site of the Art institute. Later its logs were deposited in the inclos-

ure of Libby prison, which also had been brought to Chicago for exhibition. Then the timbers disappeared, Mrs. Gridley says. Now the association wants to build a replica on Goose Nest prairie, where the proposed Lincoln Memorial highway may run.

"Mrs. Thomas insisted on having the stone brought home," Mrs. Gridley said, "on the runningboard of our car, though the rest of our party were afraid it would capsize us. We believe she may be right in regarding it as a find of historical importance, but I wish readers of The Daily News would help us decide what it is."

Suggestions that have been offered are: That "L" stand for Libby prison; that 25 means "25 soldiers are buried here"; that the stone was a gravestone; that it was a marker for a lane in the prison; that it was a marker for a lane in a camp; that "L 25" stands for the 25th Louisiana regiment. Take your choice—and think up a better theory.

N. Y. C. Times

A FARMHOUSE LINCOLN KNEW TO BE A MEMORIAL TO HIM

ILLINOIS is about to add another to the country's increasing number of Lincoln shrines. On the old Circuit Road between Decatur and Springfield stands a farmhouse pointed to visitors as a place where Lincoln frequently stopped. Now Macon County, in which it is situated, has announced its intention of acquiring the property and preserving it as a memorial. This project was undertaken last year in commemoration of the county's 100th anniversary.

Warnick Tavern, as the farmhouse is called, is built sturdily of native walnut and oak. Its three dormer windows look out over the long, pillared front porch with as much assurance as they did a century ago. This part of the house, shaded by

elms, is little changed since Lincoln's time. The house was there when the Lincolns first went to Illinois to settle on the land selected for them by John Hanks, on the Sangamon River.

The Warnicks, industrious, friendly folk, with many acres to farm and manage, were glad enough to avail themselves of the services of their young neighbor, and so he found work there, plowing, planting and harvesting. When noon came he would spend his dinner hour under the elms, it is said, reading.

Lincoln split rails and did other chores for the Warnicks and so earned enough homespun from Mrs. Warnick to make his Winter suit. Fourteen hundred rails split is what a pair of jean breeches cost in 1830.

Home of Warnicks.

Lincoln Eagle 2-28-30
The Decatur Review.

Edwin Davis, Antioch, believes the Hudleson place, generally known as the first home of Major William Warnick, is not the original Warnick home. It is more than an opinion. Mr. Davis has quite an array of facts to back his belief.

During the last year, Mr. Davis has spent a good share of his time studying available records of early Macon county in general and the history of the Warnick family in particular.

He is convinced, Major Warnick, one of the pioneer settlers of the community and the first sheriff of Macon county, erected his first log cabin, late in 1828 or 1829 on the south side of the road, or just a few feet south of the existing Peru school.

Proofs

There are a number of supporting facts. First, the Commissioner's Book, which goes back to the very beginning of Macon county and is dependable beyond reasonable question, states in two different places that the old Paris-Springfield post road passed "the William Warnick place on the northwest." There is no record, or information of any kind, to show that the location of the old road has been changed at this place.

Another point: Records in the county recorder's office show that R. C. Peebles entered the land on which the Hudleson place now stands in 1830. Warnick bought from Benjamin Wilson, according to records, the S. W. 1/4 of the N. W. 1/4 of section 35, township 16 north range 1 east.

Warnick Buys

Aug 6, 1833, Sheriff Warnick purchased the East one-half of the N. W. 1/4 of township 16 from R. C. Peebles. It is on this land the Hudelson home stands.

Mr. Davis' investigation would indicate that Warnick squatted on a tract south of the road. Money was none too plentiful. Then he was elected sheriff and money began coming in, not in large sums, but a nice income for the time nevertheless. As the major prospered, he cast about him for desirable land. He saw no need to enter the land on which he was squatting. Since he was sheriff, it was not likely that he would be deposed, so he bought other land; first—the Wilson, then the Peebles tracts.

This kept him pretty well strapped,

and it was not until 1838 that he entered the land on which he first lived.

Moves Across Road

For at least two or three years he lived in the cabin south of the road. It is not likely that he moved across the road before 1833, when he bought out Peebles. The big cabin may have been built by Peebles, or by Warnick as tradition has it. That is not particularly important.

If the above is true, then a great many legends concerning Lincoln's association with the Hudleson place are disproved. One is the frozen feet episode:

Crossing the Sangamon one night on his way to the Warnicks from his cabin home north of the river, Lincoln fell through the ice, and both feet were frozen. Historians agree pretty generally that he stayed for six weeks in the Warnick home until his feet healed. During this period, he read the Illinois statute book from cover-to-cover, his first examination of law and probably one of the incidents which turned his career.

Has Lincoln Memories

Since Lincoln had left Macon county, as a resident, long before 1833, it is fairly clear that the home in which he stayed for six weeks was the cabin south of the road, and not the existing homestead.

It is fair to say, however, that Lincoln stayed many a night in the Hudleson house. After he left Decatur, he came back many times to visit the Warnicks. Later, when the "second" Warnick home became the Eckel Tavern, the Thirty-three Mile House, or the Eight Mile House, as it was variously known, Lincoln stopped there frequently as he rode the circuit.

Lincoln Memorial Commission Head Urges Restoration of Lincoln Farm

The Macon County farm on which the Lincolns first settled upon coming to Illinois, may be acquired by the state and restored to its old pioneer appearance of Abraham Lincoln's youth there, if the plan presented by Logan Hay, president of the Lincoln Memorial commission, in Illinois, is fulfilled.

On an article in the United States Daily, Mr. Hay advocates that all localities which have been frequented or personally connected with Lincoln, be secured by the state or fitting memorials be erected.

Complete Restoration

Log buildings, log fences and crude farm implements characteristic of Lincoln's day, even to the wooden shovel said to have stood beside the fireplace, would be replaced on the farm west of Decatur.

A custodian would be required, no doubt, to keep the farm in its pioneer state without permitting it to degenerate. The road to the farm would be marked by special markers so that persons wishing to go to the farm would be easily able to reach it.

The Coles County farm, where Thomas Lincoln, Abe's father, lived at the time of his death, could be treated in the same manner, but with greater ease in that the state already owns the property.

Extensive Project

The old state house, the Lincoln home in Springfield, the entire village of New Salem, and the old state house in Vandalla which recently was damaged by fire, all would be restored to their early condition.

The camping places of Lincoln during the Black Hawk war, the locations in which he and Douglas debated, all would be marked by uniform bronze tablets for the benefit of students of Lincoln's life. The tablets would carry not only inscriptions, but pictures of the times and events with which the locality is connected.

being paved and work was also started Tuesday morning on three Jefferson ave-

DECATUR III. THE HERALD
FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1930.

OLD LINCOLN CABIN

There has been considerable controversy in regard to a statement made by Thomas B. Shoaff of Shelbyville, Illinois, that the cabin in which Abraham Lincoln made his home in this state was exhibited on Boston Common in 1865.

This is the cabin that was located on the Sangamon River, seven miles south-west of Decatur, Illinois, and Mr. Shoaff, who was 19 years old at that time, claimed that his father and he shipped the cabin and a lot of walnut fence rails, made by Lincoln and John Hanks, Boston. The logs in the cabin were numbered and replaced in original form when exhibited, and the fence rails were fashioned into "walking sticks, etc.," and sold as souvenirs. John and Dennis Hanks accompanied the cabin logs to Boston, numbered for replacing. At that time, James Shoaff, my father, published the "Magnet," a newspaper in Decatur, Illinois.

The Massachusetts Historical Society could not authenticate this story, but Dr. William E. Barton has come into possession of a hand-bill issued in Boston announcing "The Original Lincoln Cabin now on exhibition on the Parade Ground, Boston Common." The hand-bill con-

tains the names of persons who saw the cabin, and printed thereon is a letter from Governor Richard J. Oglesby, dated May 20, 1865. Price of admission, adults 25c and children 10c.

Upon further research, aided by the Boston Herald, they discovered the following: "At a meeting of the Board of Alderman of the city of Boston, held at Mechanics Hall on Monday, the 10th day of July, Anna Domini, 1865, and agreeable to the reports of the committee on licenses and common, leave was granted to John Hanks to exhibit President Lincoln's original log cabin on Boston Common."

The old Lincoln cabin was on exhibition during the summer of 1865, and at the end of the season it was sold to an English syndicate and shipped to London. After leaving Boston, it was never heard of, and was supposed that the ship was lost in transit.

Perma Eagle 10-17-30

Shameful Neglect of Lincoln Traditions

To the Editor of The Herald,

Sir: Abraham Lincoln is the most important of American historical personages, not only because of his own great performances, but as representing most classically the hard-ship enduring pioneers who dragged inner America into civilized being. We are preferred residents, hereabouts, in original Lincoln-formative country; and what we have not done about it is an outrage to American historical decency.

The boulder-marker for the first Lincoln cabin-home, some eight miles down the Sangamon from Decatur, is in the wrong place—some hundreds of yards to the northeast; and that marker is dated wrong, 1831 instead of 1830. During the open months, thousands from all points in the United States pass along route 10, a mile north of that historically invaluable site, and encounter not a sign of information to indicate that they could turn in there, view at the least a flag, and remove their hats.

To reach the misplaced marker, which is meaningless as so placed, people from Vermont for instance have to open two gates, a quarter of a mile apart on the wrong farm, to see it; and thus try to pay homage to him who they also consider our greatest representative. And the road between the gates is unsafe to motor vehicles; in one place a submerged iron pipe can ruin two tires. The road to the correct location is the next road west; and from its next south corner can be seen, to the east, a little sign where a replica of the cabin by all means should stand. The boulder which is in the wrong place should be moved; and the date corrected thereon.

We can hardly pick up a book on Lincoln without at once encountering slipshod errors. There is a new volume out lately in Decatur, correcting some and starting new ones. Carl Sandburg's Lincoln, published in 1926, is wrong: See picture opposite page 33—"helped haul Lincoln family to new prairie home in Illinois in 1831." Why not 1830, as it was? Opposite page 177 the Lincoln & Berry store, at restored New Salem, is shown as the Offut store; the Offut store is shown as the Hill store. Opposite page 144 the L. & B. store, contradictorily, is shown to be itself; and the Hill and McNamar store is pictured as the McNamar store—with no mention of Hill, with whom Abe had important associations there that should be carefully preserved to history.

It is a wonder to me that historians even got Lincoln's birth date right! Petersburg has road-markers indicating "Old Salem;" whereas they should read: "Restored New Salem," and give some idea of the distance thereto. And why should Pike county start a town by the same name, "New Salem," which should have

been preserved to the memory of Abraham Lincoln forever? Travelers from distances throughout America, coming into Illinois, looking up Lincoln's New Salem on their road maps, will find only the wrong town so shown and listed, away over to the west 50 miles—and then perhaps give up in disgust trying to follow what should be, but are not, well marked Lincoln trails in Central Illinois.

I am ashamed that I am not rich enough to correct all these delinquencies myself.

C. A. S.
Monticello, Jan. 21.

DECATUR ILL. EVE HERALD
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1931.

MAIL BAG

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C. A. S.

Monticello, Jan. 21.

Prized Lincoln Relic Goes to Washington

Book Which Played Part in Ann Rutledge Romance by Wish of Lender Will Repose in Library of Congress.

Here for 10 Years

Decatur's most prized Lincoln relic—the Kirkham grammar given by Lincoln to Ann Rutledge—will be displayed in the Lincoln memorial collection in the library for the last time Friday of this week.

The priceless old book, by the wish of the lender, will be sent next week to the Library of Congress in Washington, where it will remain permanently.

It has been 10 years since the volume came to Decatur, secured through the persistent importunities of Miss Jane Hamand, donor of the Lincoln collection. In that time it has been seen by thousands of persons and has been examined by a number of Lincoln authorities including Miss Ida Tarbell.

Kept In Bank Vault

Too valuable to remain on permanent display in the collection, the grammar has reposed a greater part of the time in a bank vault, and has been brought to the library only on special occasions, such as the Lincoln birthday anniversary, or when any group of Lincoln enthusiasts from out of town wished to see it. It had never been understood that the grammar was to continue in Decatur for all time; in fact when it was brought here it was believed that it would be allowed to stay but a year or two. In asking that it be sent to Washington, Miss Hamand is only carrying out the wishes of the Rutledge family from whom she obtained it.

The authenticity of the book never has been questioned. It carries on the title page Lincoln's playful presentation in the words—"Ann M. Rutledge is now learning grammar." It also has pasted on the inside of the cover the receipt signed by Lincoln when he was a clerk in the store of Denton Offutt in New Salem.

Story of Book Well Known

All Lincoln enthusiasts know the traditional story of the book—how Lincoln, when residing in New Salem, learned from Mentor Graham, a traveling school teacher, that he needed to remedy the inaccuracies in his speech—how the young clerk walked seven miles to procure the grammar from a neighbor—how Lincoln and Ann Rutledge studied the book together in the Rutledge tavern in New Salem, and how Ann continued to study it as a preparation for her entrance into Jacksonville academy.

Two years after the death of Ann, ending the romance between Lincoln and herself, the Rutledge family moved to Iowa. The book was supposed to have been in the possession of Robert Rutledge, brother of Ann, whom Lincoln made a provost marshal in the Civil war.

Singularly enough collectors did not go to the right sources. In December, 1921, Miss Hamand secured the names and addresses of the three surviving sons of Robert Rutledge and wrote them all, ask-

Decatur Loses Priceless Old Book



DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
DECATUR, ILLINOIS
MINNIE A. DILL, LIBRARIAN

April 2, 1932

Mr. John B. MacHarg,
Lawrence College,
Appleton, Wisconsin.

My dear Mr. MacHarg:

Several times I have attempted to answer your letter of last December but the regular business of the library, or the many interruptions, always interfered. Then too, I hoped to be able to run down some of the information you desired.

As to markers and tablets, in addition to those you mentioned, there is a bronze tablet on the grounds of the Art Institute which marks a place on the circuit that Lincoln used to ride while practising law; also a bronze tablet in the Macon County courthouse, which was dedicated by the Woman's Relief Corps, April 10, 1927, which contains a relief of Lincoln at the top and below the Gettysburg address.

There is no Lincoln statue in front of the High School in Decatur. I believe there is one by Lorado Taft in either Champaign or Urbana.

There is no marker on the site of an old hotel where Lincoln stopped.

It is generally believed that the marker placed by the D. A. R. is not at the correct location, but that the cabin stood nearer the river. It is not usually called the "Lincoln Riverside Home" as far as I know.

There are no advanced Lincoln students here nor large collections, but the citizens generally keep up with the flood of Lincoln literature and lore, and motor all over this and surrounding states to visit historical spots connected with Lincoln, see museums and statues, etc. I might mention the names of two persons who are descendants of old settlers and know considerable about early history and pioneers: Mr. Edwin D. Davis, Route 8, Decatur, and Mr. Frank E. Sawyer, Route 7, Decatur.

I am enclosing two pamphlets on Decatur and a clipping about the Kirkham Grammar which we had for ten years, now in the Library of Congress. The Centennial History of Decatur and Macon County, published by the Decatur Review and Macon County Centennial association, 1930, has much of interest about Abraham Lincoln. The price is \$2.50.

I hope you visit Decatur and the surrounding Lincoln places of interest this summer.

Very truly yours,

Minnie A. Dill

16 June 1932

Miss Minnie A. Dill
Decatur Public Library
Decatur, Ill.

My dear Miss Dill :

My long delay in writing you is not at indicative of my appreciation of your kindness in giving me just the information I desired.

College has now closed and I have a little leisure for my favorite study , which is the life of Lincoln. I am working slowly on a little book which will someday, I hope, be ready for publication. I shall send you the sections that cover Decatur for I am anxious to have what I write authoritative and complete.

It is possible that I may visit Decatur this autumn. I have some work to do at New Salem and Decatur is not very far away. I missed the Warnick house on my last visit and I wish to go over there. Barton says the house is still standing and is , probably, the oldest house in Macon county in continuous use as a dwelling. I am also interested in the location of the Lincoln cabin and I hope you will be on the lookout for clues. There seems to be no authority in the matter. The general opinion is that the marker is wrongly placed. Barton says it may have stood very near where a windmill now stands. A man on the spot said the old timers said the cabin stood close to the river and showed me the spot. He said that he remembered finding bits of china there. I doubt if they were from the Lincoln menage but they might have been thrown out by subsequent occupants of the cabin. If you have definite information as to what became of the cabin- how long it stood- etc., I should , ofcourse, be very glad to know. When you see anyone who might have information, maybe you will be good enough to ask for it.

Thanking you again and with sincere good wishes

Very truly yours

1. MARKERS Commemorating Location
- a. Bronze Tablet on grounds of Art Institute, marking Circuit.
 - b. Bronze Tablet in the Macon Co. Court House, dedicated by the woman's Relief Corps, Apr. 10, 1927, with relief of Lincoln at top and Gettysburg address below.

2. STATUES OR MONUMENTS Location

3. MUSEUM COLLECTIONS OF LINCOLN RELICS (Publicly or privately owned)

Decatur Public Library, Minnie A. Dill, Librarian.

4. COLLECTIONS OF LINCOLN BOOKS (Publicly or privately owned)

Decatur Public Library

5. BUILDINGS CONNECTED WITH LINCOLN OR HIS FAMILY

6. OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST IN CONNECTION WITH LINCOLN IN TOWN OR SURROUNDING COUNTRY

Site of Macon Co. home of the Lincolns. The marker is not correctly placed. Home was near river.

Warnick home. Br. women L. Loved, 130, 131

7. NAMES OF THOSE MOST INTERESTED IN THE STUDY OF LINCOLN

Edwin S. Davis, Route 8 Decatur
Frank E. Sawyer, Route 7, Decatur.

8. AUTHOR AND TITLE OF BOOKS OF LOCAL HISTORY

The Centennial History of Decatur and Macon County, published by the Decatur Review and Macon Co. Centennial Assoc. 1930 \$2.50

The above information through the courtesy of

.....Minnie A. Dill.....

.....Librarian....

Decatur Public Library

Decatur Illinois



The CITY THAT MADE A LAKE



DECATUR Illinois



*The Playground of
Central Illinois*

Item available in the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection at the
Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana

For contact information, go to www.LincolnCollection.org.



V I E W O F T H E S A N G A M O N R I V E R F R O M T H E S I T E
O F T H E M A C O N C O U N T Y H O M E S T E A D

J u n e , 1 9 2 9





URBANA-LINCOLN HOTEL, URBANA, ILLINOIS
On the site of the old Kerr Tavern



EARLY COURT-HOUSE AT DECATUR, ILLINOIS
In use when the Lincolns arrived from Indiana

Photographs by the Author





R 1 - Decatur. Dec., 11/4/33.

Dear Ben - Yours of 2nd inst. received - No apology for your "eds" is necessary - This early reply is evidence of my poor memory - I must make notes right now or may be recollect three months hence.

I was in Decatur today and met Edwin Davis our local Lincoln specialist - he visited Salem Park for recent education and was run out early by rain - I told him your story of the cut in your old life of Lincoln showing faked Lincoln beside John Hawks near old "Mason County Cabin" - He knew about this book - and says Sam Shoaff said it was his father Jim Shoaff - plug hat whiskers and all. He also says the evolution of Lincoln monument museum says it is a faked Lincoln inst - There you is (Amos & Andy) It is fairly agreed to by local Lincoln "fans" that the cabin in controversy was somebody else cabin located nearby site of the real cabin which was burned in a timber fire during Civil War Shoaff, John Hawks & Dennis Hawks commercialized the cabin into a neat profit in admissions, sale of mementoes &c. The Hawks family are noted for hunger for money - they do not violate the law - and are average citizens but they allowed the \$ sign to influence them.

Several photographs are beginning to appear showing two kinds of log construction - round and hewed

Shoaff says the round logs are genuine - other pictures bearing Gov Oglesby's certificate of genuineness shows hewn logs -

There you is again

James Shoaff - editor Decatur Magnet is a son in law of Dennis Hawks according to Hawks record and lived in Decatur for many years his son Tom was editor of various papers in Charleston, Paris and Shelbyville - He was killed last year in auto accident in Shelbyville. He used to flare up at any doubt of the coin being faked or being genuine.

Your old friend D.C. Corley, came to Dan and myself today with a Lincoln farm - He was walking out N. Main St on Sunday and met James Mellick near present University - They sat on a log and Mellick related this story - "I met William Rea who said 'Steve Douglas is in town at Revere House - Lets go down and see him - He agreed to go and did so. Several callers were present with us - one blurtly said 'Senator, why dont you accept Abraham Lincoln's challenge for a joint debate?'

Douglas replied 'I am a U.S. Senator and able in debate and if I accept I am expected to set Lincoln up 'boots and britches' - I know Lincoln ^{and have} tried law suits with him and gentlemen I am not able to do it'.

He did accept - thus helping Lincoln advertise himself and by political fortune of a four cornered fight put Lincoln in the White House.

MANY LINCOLN SITES REBUILT THROUGH CWA.

State Hastens to Use Federal Funds for Restoration

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.—Rehabilitation of historical sites and buildings in the state, a long visualized objective of Illinois historians, has gained impetus with creation of the civil works administration.

At least two projects already are being carried through to completion. One is the reconstruction of the pioneer town of New Salem as a unique memorial to Abraham Lincoln who grew to manhood there.

The other, on which work just recently started, is the restoration of the old Illinois state capital building at Vandalia, where Lincoln first served in the legislature. Both projects are being carried out through the CWA.

Thirteen Log Cabins

At New Salem thirteen log cabins, replicas of those on the site a century ago, recently were dedicated by Governor Henry Horner. The ritual climaxed a movement carried on by the state to reconstruct the frontier town. The work now has been taken over by the CWA.

Current work at this site consists of construction of a parking space near the rebuilt town and the completion of several more cabins. Isolation of a museum, the only modern structure at the site, later will be accomplished by transplanting a grove of trees around it.

Old Capitol Museum

A tentative program also has been outlined for the creation of the old state capitol building at Springfield into another museum.

The building now is being used as a county courthouse. It was on this site that Lincoln delivered his famous speech in which he said "a house divided against itself cannot stand."

There are numerous other historical spots that have come into prominence since the restoration program was begun and it is possible that many of these will be turned into museums and parks.

One such project is an edifice at Bloomington where Lincoln delivered his "lost speech" marking the turning point in Illinois' pre-Civil War political history.

1404 S. East Avenue,
Berwyn, Ill.

April 2, 1936

LINCOLN NATIONAL

RECEIVED

RECEIVED APR 6 1936

AMOUNT \$

DATE

The Lincoln National Life Ins. Co.

Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Sirs:

I have been referred to you by Jerry Cesar of
1524 So. 61st Court, Cicero, Ill., as.

Below I have traced the piece of wood which
is believed to be from Lincoln's cabin. It is a
piece of black walnut with the bark on the top.
On the lower left corner there is a tag glued on
with the ~~(inscp)~~ inscription as printed below. The piece
looks very old and I would like to be sure
that it's a genuine piece so I am asking if you
could tell me and what would it be worth.

Also I would like to know if the following
are still offered for sale.

1. A life mask of Abraham Lincoln \$3.25
2. A cast of Lincoln's right hand \$1.50
3. A Lincoln miniature cabin \$1.00
4. Gavel made from wood from the birth place farm .50

BANK

LINCOLN CABIN

THIS IS THE CABIN
BY A. LINCOLN JOHN HENDERSON
HANKS IN MORGAN CO. ILL IN
1930 SIGNED JOHN HANKS
HANK

Bottom view

April 14, 1936

Mr. John Rusnak
1404 South East Avenue
Berwyn, Illinois

My dear Mr. Rusnak:

Your letter with reference to the piece of the Lincoln cabin which you have is received and I think quite likely it is authentic as we do know that John and Dennis Hanks did sell several pieces of old timber from the Lincoln cabin in Macon County, Illinois. I think it quite possible, therefore, that what you have is genuine.

You will please find enclosed a little schedule which gives you some description of the items about which you ask and we would be very glad to supply them if you care to have them.

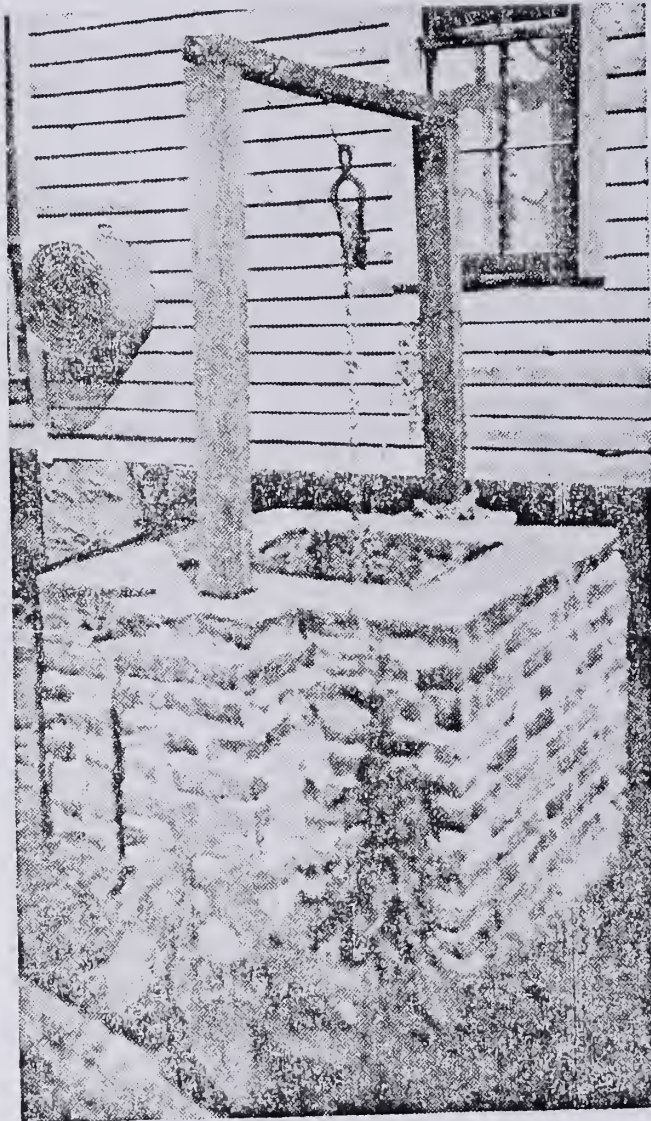
Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:AAM
Enc.

SERVED GREATEST

*Lincoln and Lafayette Drank from Old Well
at Shawneetown Still in Use After More
Than Century of Service*



SHAWNEETOWN WELL

Standing at the rear of a building which once served as the first bank in Illinois—at Shawneetown—is a rustic well still in service after more than a century. Water from this well cooled the lips and brought refreshment to General Lafayette and Abraham Lincoln on their visits there.

Many years ago, when Chicago was in its babyhood and Shawneetown was a thriving center of industry and commerce, Chicago business men journey by horseback down the length of the state to borrow money from the bank. But Shawneetown bankers disdainfully refused the request, saying Chicago was "too far from Shawneetown ever to amount to anything." At least, so the story runs.

The bank, now a dwelling house, and well have been the property of Mrs. Elizabeth Lintzenich for 50 years.

Lincoln Spirit Yet Lives At Hub Of State

**Tourists Find Pleasant
Settings Devoted To
Nation's Hero.**

Springfield, centrally located in the Sangamon river valley, the seat of state government since 1839, is the hub of Illinois. In addition, it is the town where Abraham Lincoln lived from his twenty-eighth to his fifty-first year, rising from a young lawyer and legislator to president-elect, a man marked by destiny. Considering this, it is little wonder that thousands visit Springfield yearly to pass in silent reverence through the Lincoln shrines, and walk the ways he walked during the days in which he grew to greatness.

Springfield became the state capital largely through the efforts of Lincoln and eight of his associates in the legislative session of 1837 at Vandalia, and two years later Lincoln sat in the house of the new capitol on the square of Springfield. Today another capitol, built after Lincoln's death, houses the officers and legislators of the state, two other buildings serve as quarters for



**Abraham Lincoln's Home
at Springfield.**

libraries, the state museum, administrative offices, and the supreme court, and two other buildings are being constructed to accommodate the archives and replace the state armory destroyed by fire. But the old capitol remains on the square, serving both as the Sangamon county courthouse and a reminder of Lincoln's day.

Away from the public buildings we turn to the green shuttered white frame house at the corner of Eighth and Jackson streets, which Lincoln bought in 1844, two years after his marriage to Mary Todd. Here is preserved carefully by the state the simple setting in which Lincoln lived as a family man.

Two miles due north of the capitol are the Lincoln tomb and monument, completed in 1874 and twice



**Former state house now
Sangamon courthouse.**

remodeled since that time. The edifice is on an eminence which is strikingly landscaped, making a dignified resting place commensurate with Lincoln's greatness.

The second reconstruction of the tomb, undertaken by the state in 1930-31, has transformed the interior into a shrine of singular im-

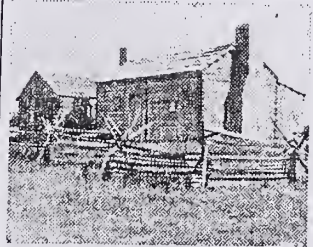
Lincoln At Dixon



**Lincoln as a soldier in the
Black Hawk war, the Leonard
Crunelle statue.**

pressiveness. The marble walls, the indirect lighting which suggests the soft stillness of early evening, and the statuettes standing in niches through the corridors giving a history of Lincoln's life, make a blend of richness and simplicity which are entirely fitting. In the south wall of the cenotaph chamber, facing the cenotaph itself, are buried Mrs. Lincoln and the children.

Other places in Springfield directly associated with Lincoln are marked with bronze memorial tablets. They are, briefly: Site of Speed's general store, 107 South Fifth street (above this store Lincoln shared a room with Speed in 1837); site of Stuart and Lincoln's law office (1837-1839), 109 North Fifth street; site of Logan and Lincoln's law office (1841-1843), 203 South Sixth street; site of Lincoln and Herndon's law office (1843-1865),



**New Salem, now looks as
it did in Lincoln's time.**

103 South Fifth street; site of Globe Tavern, 315 East Adams street (here Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln lived until 1844 and here Robert Lincoln was born); C. M. Smith building, 528 East

Adams street (in a room on the third floor of this building Lincoln wrote his first inaugural address in January, 1861); site of Illinois State Journal, 116 North Sixth street (here Lincoln received the news on May 18, 1860, of his nomination for the presidency).

A new memorial to Lincoln, the Abraham Lincoln Memorial garden, now is going forward at beautiful Lake Springfield, about seven miles southeast of the city. The Illinois Garden club first sponsored the plan, but as it reaches fruition it will represent the reverent offerings of many more states in the union. The garden will be a happy tribute to the man who once said: "Die when I may, I want it said of me by those who knew me best that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow."

The reconstructed village of New Salem, about seventeen miles northwest of Springfield, near Petersburg, is a triumph in the preservation of the pioneer atmosphere in which Lincoln started his career. Nowhere else is the spirit of the young Abraham Lincoln so close and real.

241 St Journal 6/30/30

PAGE THREE

Lincoln In Illinois

**Born In Kentucky, Emancipator Became Greatest Citizen
Of Adopted State Where He Grew To Greatness.**

Although Abraham Lincoln was born in Kentucky and spent his boyhood years in Indiana, it was in Illinois that he lived during most of his life and attained the prominence that led to the presidency and world-wide fame.

He was born in a log cabin near Hodgen's Mill (now Hodgenville), Ky. Two years later, in 1811, the family moved to their Knob Creek home. In 1816 the family moved to Indiana, where Lincoln City is now located. There in the fall of 1818 Nancy Hanks Lincoln died.

Later Thomas Lincoln the father, married Sarah Bush Lincoln, and after building a new cabin, the family continued to live there until 1830, when they moved to Illinois.

The Lincolns' first home in Illinois was on the bluff of the Sangamon river, eight miles west of Decatur. This was Abraham Lincoln's first contact with that beautiful stream, around which much of his life was to center.

Moved To New Salem.

Soon he was on his way down the Mississippi to New Orleans with Denton Offut. In the summer of 1831, he went to work in New Salem, clerking in Offut's store there. The New Salem years had a profound effect on his life, biographers agree, for it was there he received most of his formal schooling—what of it there was—and there that he gained his start in politics.

In Vandalia, the state capital, where he first served as a member of the general assembly, Lincoln's aspirations were awakened. He took part

in changing the capital to Springfield, and in 1837 moved into this city, there to open his first law office. Springfield then became Lincoln's home town—as it will always be.

Except for the years in Washington, his life then revolved about Springfield. He became known over the state, however, first as he traveled the Eighth judicial circuit, and then as he went over the state debating the issues presented by the repeal of the Missouri compromise.

City Is Lincoln Mecca.

Springfield today is a mecca for Lincoln students, but countless other towns in Illinois treasure memories of him. Some of them he visited regularly as he practiced law. Others knew him when he came to speak there.

His career in Illinois was climaxed by the Republican convention in Chicago in 1860, which nominated him for the presidency. His election followed, and on Feb. 11, 1861, he bade his last farewell to Springfield and Illinois.

Five years later, when a sombre funeral train brought his body home from Washington, sorrowing thousands filed past his casket in Chicago, eager to pay him final respect. Towns on the railroad from Chicago to Springfield erected memorial displays, and in Springfield 75,000 persons marched past the coffin in the old state house.

The procession that paid honor to Abraham Lincoln then has not ceased. More than two and a half million persons have visited the tomb in Springfield, and yearly, now, one hundred thousand more come to pay tribute to Illinois' greatest citizen.

State Parks Improved

Complete Numerous Buildings During Year;
3,000,000 Visit Sites In 1938.

A marked increase in the inter-room hotel with modern conveniences, and immediately adjacent to the hotel, twelve new cabins for overnight visitors.

est shown in Illinois state parks during the year resulted in unprecedented gains in attendance at the recreational and scenic sites, according to F. Lynden Smith, director of the state department of public works and buildings.

Three million people, one-tenth of them from outside the state, visited the twenty-four major units in the state park system during the year, Smith reported, and indications are that added facilities which will be ready for the 1939 season will attract larger crowds next year.

The park system now comprises 15,000 acres and each year is advancing nearer the state's goal of one acre of state maintained recreation land for every 1,000 inhabitants.

"During the diennium just closed increased maintenance and operation appropriations supplemented with federal grants have made possible the completion of new roads, new structures, grading and landscaping in twenty-two of the state's major parks," Smith said.

"Planning policies in which state experts have had the benefit of co-operation from the national park service have been such as to assure us of the lasting benefit of these improvements.

"Outstanding accomplishments include the completion of a large stone and lodge building at Starved Rock state park. In addition to the lodge, the state will open at this park next summer a forty-two

"At New Salem state park, much significant progress has been made. The Rutledge tavern, the Burner home and a number of other structures have been completed. Work is moving steadily ahead on the Rutledge home and the Miller Blacksmith shop and plans are complete for the restoration of the Rutledge-Cameron grist mill. Because of rapidly increasing attendance at this park, the state was forced last year to enlarge the parking area."

Other improvements in the state park system listed by the director's yearend report included:

At the Mt. Pulaski courthouse, Logan county, plans for complete restoration have been completed by the division of parks design office and application for a P.W.A. matched grant has been submitted.

At the Lincoln Logan cabin state park, Coles county near Charleston, a new pump house and water distribution system have been completed. Completion of new roads in this area have increased attendance.

At Pere Marquette state park, Jersey county near Grafton, a lodge with hotel rooms, dining room, public lounge, and concession space will be completed for the 1939 season. Additional picnic grounds and parking facilities have been provided to accommodate the rapidly increasing attendance.

Decatur Woman, 85, Recalls Lincoln

Stayed At Home Of Her Parents Several Days.

Abraham Lincoln's outstanding ability as a whistler was recently pointed out by Mrs. Elizabeth Ray of Decatur, among little known facts in the life of the Great Emancipator which she learned as a child, when he was a neighbor to her father.

Lincoln and Stephen Douglas once slept in the same bed together in her father's home, the 85-year-old Decatur resident recalled.

Her father, Louis Harvey, moved to Cumberland county in 1854, where she was born that year. Just four and one-half miles away was the home Lincoln had bought for his father, Thomas Lincoln, and his stepmother.

When Mrs. Ray was about 3 years old the future sixteenth president of the United States came to that home to spend a season with his stepmother. His father had died previously.

First Saw Lincoln.

It was during this time that Mrs. Ray first saw Lincoln. On one occasion he came and stayed in her parents' home for several days and helped her father break prairie sod. It was the custom for all neighbors to exchange work in those days and the incident was not regarded as unusual.

"I remember Pa said one night he'd have to get up early in the morning, because Abe was coming over to break prairie sod," Mrs. Ray said.

They plowed the field where the Methodist church now stands in Toledo, Ill., she explained with a twinkle in her alert eyes.

"Lincoln drove over in a wagon pulled by three yokes of oxen that were used to pull the large breaking plow." Two black oxen with white spots named "Jack" and "Jerry" were in the rear yoke, "Nick" and "Tuck," a pair of blue roans, were in the center and the leaders were "Bren" and "Broad," a pair of red roans.

"I often heard Pa talk about the oxen used by the Lincolns," Mrs. Ray said. "Pa wouldn't use oxen. He said they were too slow."

Active At 85.

Mrs. Ray, surprisingly active both mentally and physically despite her 85 years, recalled a visit her family made to the Lincoln home, during the future president's stay with his stepmother.

"Mr. Lincoln carried me into the house," she said with a proud twinkle in her eyes.

"We had some butternuts. I'd never seen any before. Lincoln cracked them and handed them to us.

"The folks just talked, and when I woke up next morning I was home," she said.

Lincoln and Douglas were "just the very best of friends," she explained. "The night they stayed at our house they slept in the bed in the spare room off the kitchen.

"They'd tell jokes on each other and laugh," she recalled.

Feared Bed Too Short.

During the night she woke up and heard her mother say to her father, "I just wish we'd let Mr. Lincoln sleep in our bed. I'll bet his feet are out."

Her father related the incident at the breakfast table the next morning, to the great amusement of Lincoln, who had long since become used to quips about his unusual height.

"Pa had the only good driving horses for miles around," Mrs. Ray said. "He drove to Hazel Dell, south of Greenup, where they were having a speakin', to get Douglas and Mr. Lincoln and bring them home."

Lincoln Careless Of Dress.

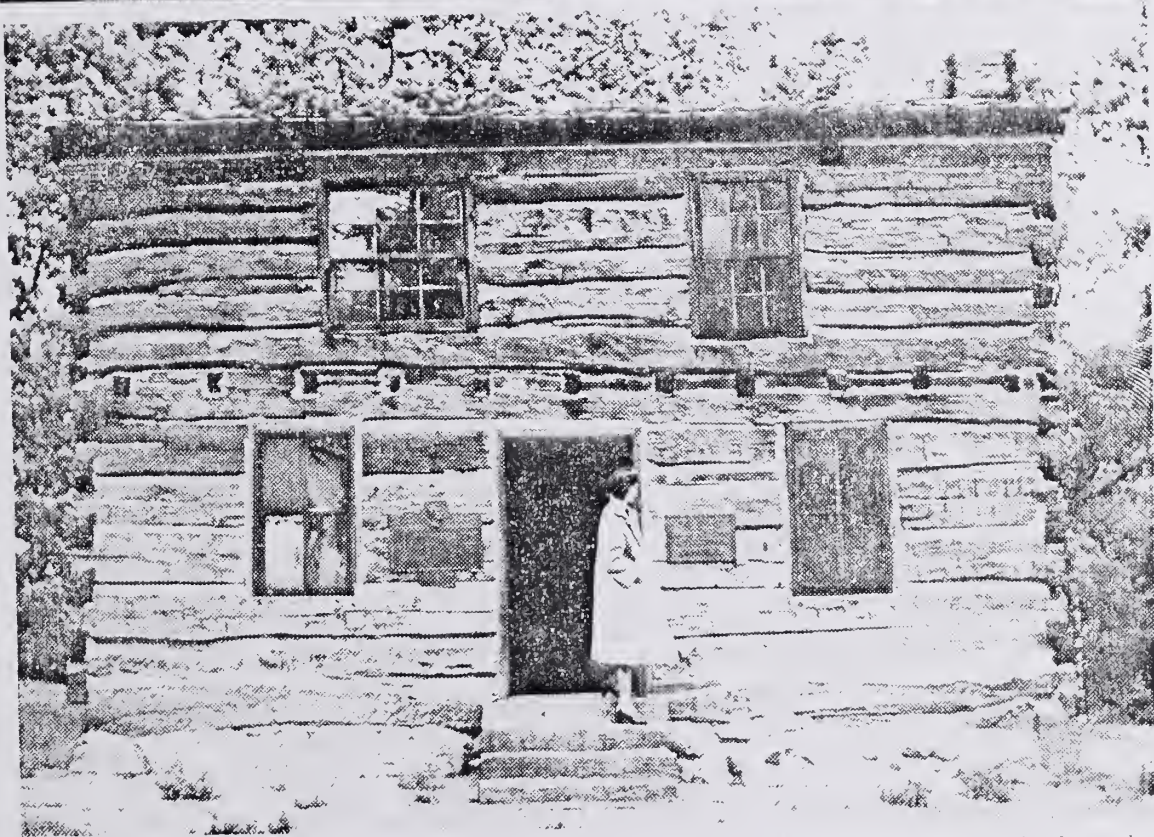
Marked differences between the two men made them appear almost ludicrous together. Lincoln was tall and unkempt, while Douglas was short and fastidious in dress.

"Mr. Lincoln didn't care whether his pants were in his boots or not,"

Mrs. Ray related. "Pa said he dressed that way because he thought the people would like him better."

Mrs. Ray's brother, N. A. Harvey of Ypsilanti, Mich., has a letter which Lincoln wrote to their father in 1865. In the letter, Lincoln said he had a presentiment that something was going to happen to him or to the government. Two weeks later, while attending a performance in the Ford theatre, he was assassinated.

Courthouse Where Lincoln Spoke Now Decatur Shrine



Mrs. Elizabeth Ray, upper left, 85-year-old resident of Decatur, vividly recalls several incidents in the life of Abraham Lincoln, which have not been recorded in history. One summer, when she was a young girl, Lincoln lived as a neighbor to her father. Orval Mullis, Decatur, shown upper right, has achieved na-

tional fame as an impersonator of Lincoln. He is shown in a rededication ceremony held in Decatur's Fairview park to open the restored, memory haunted Lincoln courthouse to the public. The

historic courthouse is shown below. It attracts many visitors to Fairview park in Decatur. As a rising young lawyer, Abraham Lincoln pleaded many cases in this building.

11
Decatur, Ills.
Y. W. B. A. 436 N. Main St.
Oct. 29, 1939.

My dear Dr. Warren:

I am wondering if you can tell me the facts about the Lincoln cabin picture I got from you. I notice it was made in Springfield, Mass. but the photographers name is not on it. Do you know the "seen" I understand it was last ^{seen} on Boston common in the summer of 1865 & it was reported to have been sold to an English syndicate & lost at sea. Is that true?

I am to exhibit the Lincoln portrait here in Nov. & give a gallery lecture at Art Institute Sunday at 3 P.M. & during the week to Art students & clubs. Haven't yet found out who the Macon Co. friends were that had the chair made for Lincoln Dec. 1860.

The cabin will be rebuilt next year in the State Park on the Sangamon and a bridge built across. A fund is being raised to erect a statue of Lincoln at 21 yrs. of age.

Sincerely - (Mrs.) Anna Oustott.

November 1, 1939

Mrs. Anna Onstott
Y. W. C. A.
436 West Main Street
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Onstott:

The Lincoln cabin at Decatur was exhibited on
the Boston of July 15 to September 9
and at Barnums Museum in New York City from September 18
until the last of October of the same year.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

Lincoln's Spirit Is Still Alive in His Home State

7/27/40
By Alden Powell.

"Now he belongs to the ages."
These words, uttered by Secretary of
War Stanton at the
SPRINGFIELD, death of Abraham
ILL. Lincoln, are carved
in the black marble

wall behind the sarcophagus in which
rests Lincoln's body.

Visitors by the hundreds of thou-
sands, from every state and from
many foreign countries, have stood
here to pay homage to the memory
of the emancipator. The Lincoln
tomb, in Oak Ridge cemetery, is a
shrine of national interest.

• • •
Even before the cemetery entrance
is reached, the top of the white
obelisk, rising 100 feet, is visible
above the surrounding trees. When
seen in full view, the tomb is an im-
pressive sight in its beautifully land-
scaped setting. The square base hold-
ing the sarcophagus is surmounted
by the obelisk, which is surrounded
by bronze statues representing the
four branches of military service—
the infantry, cavalry, artillery, and
navy. The figures in the groups are
in civil war uniforms. Outlined
against the obelisk is a standing fig-
ure of Lincoln, cast in bronze.

Before the entrance of the base of
the tomb is Gutzon Borglum's heroic
head of the President.

• • •
To gain the full conception of the
reverence in which Lincoln's memory
is held, it is necessary to enter the
base of the tomb and pause before
the sarcophagus. A circular corridor

takes the visitor to the semi-circular
room. The sarcophagus is surrounded
by nine flags. The first seven are
those of the states in which the suc-
cessive generations of the Lincoln
family lived, and the other two are
the stars and stripes and the Presi-
dent's flag.

Eight statuettes of Lincoln, replicas
of famous sculptured pieces, occupy
niches around the rotunda. In the
south wall are the vaults containing
the remains of Mrs. Lincoln and three
of their children, Edward, William,
and "Tad."

Visitors leave the tomb inspired,
subdued, and thoughtful. Many of
them have come to realize that in
Illinois "Lincoln's spirit lives eter-
nally."

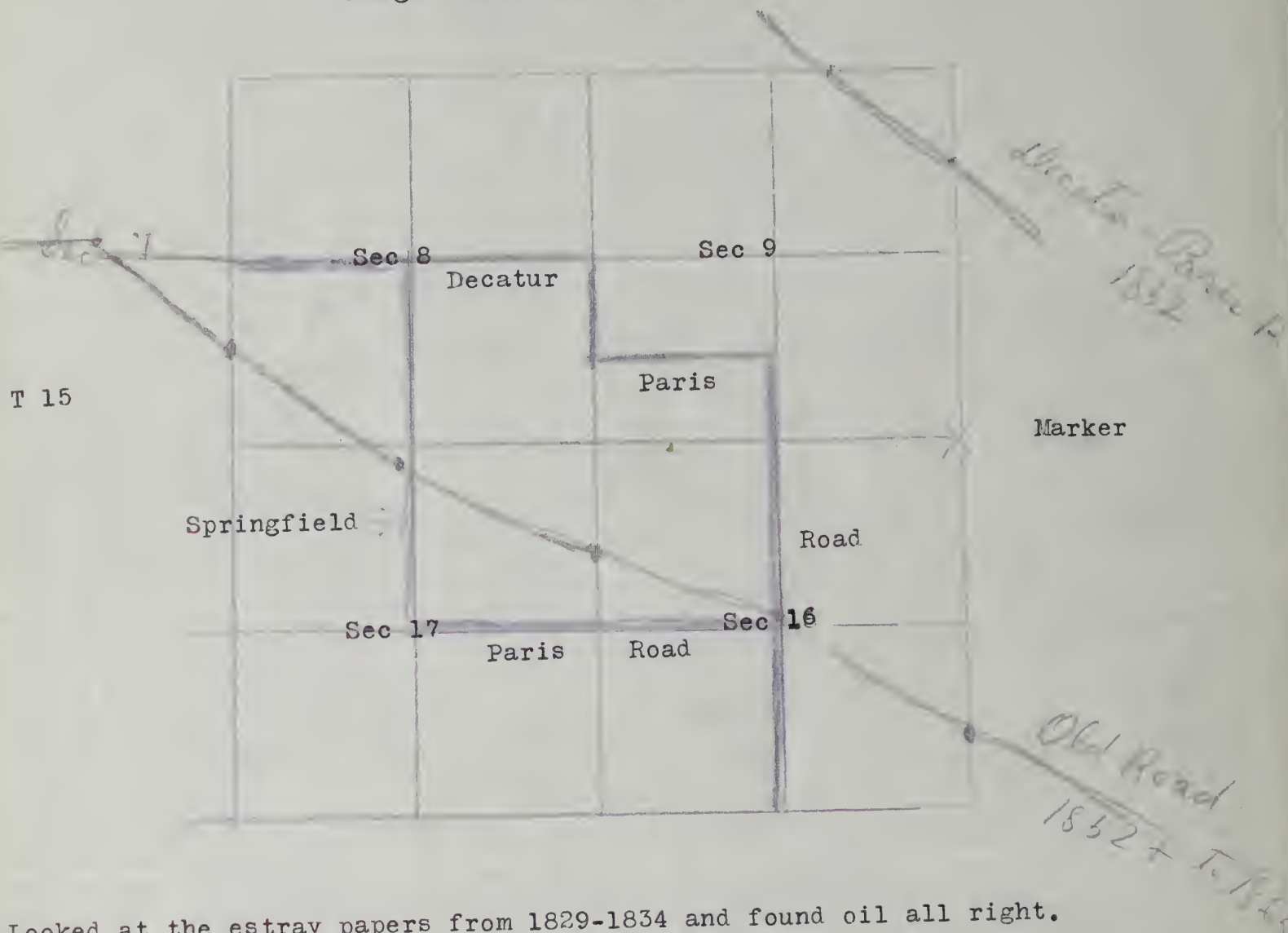
Aug. 15, 1941- Dear Sir- They gave me 2 coppies one for me and one for my friend Frank Sawyers who has goneto a good deal of trouble to get me data about John D Wright and Mrs William Miller, also John Hanks. Enclosed is onecopy which I would like you to return to me. I suppose you can take a picture of it as it is much plainer than the orignal. Will tell who some of the signers are as they are local men. David Miller-Born Dec. 27, 1790-married Mary Muirhead -second Mary Braden Wheeler widow of Henry Wheeler-some of her grandchildren tryed to prove she was the one that wove cloth for Lincoln. Miller was on 1st Petty Jury-May 6, 1830. J B (Bosier) Brown married John Hanks' sister Sarah Hanks. (first P J to meet) Squire Hall -married Lincolns' step sister Matilda Johnson. William Hanks-I think this is William Hanks Jr. John Hanks' brother. Joseph Stevens- Married Mary D Warnick-Lincoln is said to have showed some attention to her but as she was married June 17, 1830 it could not have been long. I C Pygh -Cap-in Black Hawk and Mexican War-Col and Gen. in Civil War. Philip D Williams-very prominate in early county affairs help lay out the old Decatur and Paris road (short cut on old Paris and Springfield) John Dunham Wright, John Hanks brother in law surveyed on this road and drew the map in the Commissioners book for the whole road. It went near where I live Junction U S 36-State 121. Lincoln traveled this way on the Circuit. James Miller- On first Commissioners Court First-Forth. Jas Johnson- Col. Black Hawk War-built Log (Lincoln) Court House. Helped lay out Decatur -Paris Road. John Hanks-the railsplitter . John D Johnson-step brother of Lincoln-I found his name on another potition. Landy Harrell- Petty Jury May 6 , 1830-Tavern Keeper in Decatur. Thomas Cowin- came to Macon Co. about 1822 Grand Jury 1830 .

Edwin D Davis
7 Decatur Ill.

Edwin David Davis

3 Dear Dr Warren - I wrote to soon-I finished the road papers 1829-1867.
 Fell into error about Decatur-Lovington-Paris-Terra Haute Road-thought $\frac{1}{4}$ section
 of 8 and 9 were the whole section-corrected. Neither of these main roads go
 by the marker in 1865 or 1866.

Range 4 east of 3 P M.



Looked at the estray papers from 1829-1834 and found oil all right.
 T break it gently- found Robert Wilson my great grand mothers second husband.
 William Hanks Jr- Charlie Hanks in 1831-William Hanks Sr in 1832.
 Here is the gusher. We the sighers having been called to appraise an
 Estray Mare Taken up by Jonathen B Brown on Monday the 12 th day of Dec. 1830.
 Do find horse to be four years old next Spring a bright bay 14 hands high a Small
 blaze and a Snip (?/E D) in her face, right foot white right fore foot with
 a white stripe down the hough and white hairs around the edge of the hough
 no brands. perceivable black mane and tail appraised to 30 Dollars.

Sworn under hands this 16 th day of December 1830.

A Lincoln

John W reed

I think this is in Lincolns own handwriting.

The rest of the paper is written I think by Philip D Williams J P

John W Read voted in Decatur May 28, 1831.

The name I thought was Thomas Law -on the petition till Mrs Balinger told me better was Thomas Lam- in a paper he is named Thomas Lamb but he signed Thomas Lam as in petition.

Seth Sennetts bond as constable is signed Seth SInnett. Dec. 1830-box 169
I found the signiture of S R Sheppard just like on petition except the S and R were not so close together.

If they copy the paper and if I rank a copy I will lend it to you if you want it.
I received a letter from Frank Sawyers today $\frac{3}{4}$ he had read " Vanguards of the Frontier by Everett Dick on page 407 ." As early as 1842 Stephens Hanks a cousin of Lincoln took to St Louis a lumber raft 20 cribs in length and 6 cribs wide. Hanks invented a moving device that enabeled the raft to be checked and stopped safely and it soon was adopted on all rafts. "

Have you any thing in your files about Stephen Hanks ?

I know nothing or about J Elsberry or Green Hanks in the Charelston Riot in 1864

Sep.16, 1941

Edwin David Davis

7 Decatur Ill.

P S Could Jonithan B Brown be J Bosier Brown.

August 29, 1941.

Dear Mr Warren- Thank you for the photostatic copys.

I would like a ~~few~~ of the Lincoln Lore of Aug. 18, 1941- Mr Pratt of the Lincoln A sent me a copy (to be returned) with the answer of some questions on the back. I did not know that a Smalwood was kin to the Sarah Bush family- I know one of P Smalwwoods' great grand sons and will see him about it.

Who was the Mary Hanks that married S R Sheppard.

I think the Hawks and the Shephards are burried close together in the old North Fork graveyard. Richmonds' History of Macon Co, has it that Lincoln was plowing for Shepherd west of Church St. and heard cheering and came to see. Some Democrat was running down the Whig party-Lincoln got up barefoot on a stump in front of Landy Harrell's Tavern and answered him.

I did not include this in my -Lincoln and Macon County-as it did not sound right to me- I doubt if Harrell had a tavern in 1830 certainly not a 2 story one as the story had it. My grandfather heard Lincoln make a speech on a goods box on the navigation of the Sangimon River in front of a store.

John Hanks and Howells account fits in with it.

Richmons tells of a speech by Gen Whitesides and of Lincoln making one after on the navigation of the Sangimon River.

James Renshaws' store was just off Lincoln Square where the Lincoln Theatre now is the Harrell T -if it was then there-was across the Square. an old paper says 1831. Thomas Cowan was not one of the Commissioners to locate Decatur.

Mary Warnick the daughter of William Warnick married Joseph Stevens.

Not Warrick. That is the first time that John Hanks was signed Hanks, in Macon C It is generally signed-his mark. Like in the bond of Andrew Jackson Hanks when he was constable Sep. 19, 1836- signed John Hanks-his mark, William Hanks-his mark Andrew J Hanks. There is a deed to William Hankens.

H Armstrong and John Hanks started with Flat boats to New Orleans about 1851.
 I have worked lately on a paper for the Macon Co. Historical Society on the
 Copperheads in Long Creek, Mt Zion etc. and am now working on early roads in Macon
 Co- I was looking at road papers when I found Lincolns' name-in fact was looking
 for the name of Bennis Hanks, that I had seen some time before.

Edwin D Davis

7 Decatur Ill.

East Junction U S 36-State 121 .

Edwin D Davis

P S I see Smiths History says that Cowin was a Commissioner but he was mistaken
 as he shows himself . Smith page 22. Cowin may have helped the Comm.
 E D

William Hanks Jr Jan 22, 1835

SW¹/₄ - SE¹/₄ - sec 18 T16 - east of 3 PM, = 40 A

William Hanks Jr.

Original Entry Book.

September 4, 1941

Mr. Edwin D. Davis
#7 Decatur, Ill.

Dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you for your letter so full of information about the associates of the Lincoln's in Macon County. We are happy indeed to supply you with extra copies of Lincoln Lore for August 18, 1941 and hope you are pleased with our presentation of the subject.

With reference to the Mary Hanks who married Stephen R. Sheppard, I do not know who she could have been. Many, many years ago I copied the note from the Macon County marriage records and observed that they were married on May 20, 1833 or May 10, 1833 as the excerpt is not legible. A. R. Pugh served as justice at the ceremony.

Don't overlook the Estray records in the county court because very often they carry valuable information with reference to the exact place where persons were living when an estray was taken up. I found very many valuable records in Kentucky in estray notices.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BST

Director

7
Sep. 14, 1941- Dear Mr Warren- Yes I do think that the Hawks and the Hanks family in Macon Co. are not related.. My fathers double first cousin the Rev. Martin Baker has this to say of the Hawks family. " There was another family, different from any yet mentioned in this that the father and mother were much alike, The father (Casher Hawks ED) was one of the best patrons of his own distillery, and the mother(Sooky-ED) took it for granted that men would be dissolute, that they would drink and gamble , This father must have been 60 to 70 years old when I first knew him. (My father was born in 1834 and Martin was a little younger-ED) His older sons had families of their own. The younger children were near my own age , and so I have been brought into personal relations with 5 generations of these people, and I am not as old as Methuselah either.

All of the second generation were much like their parents: one went beyond them so far as to land in the penitentiary. The men were all more or less dissolute , and the women for the most part married men who were but little better. The third generation showed marked improvement, though old tendencies were still in evidence. Beyond this point I have been able to follow only one branch of this family(William Hawks -ED) A girl (Lizzie Hawks-ED) married a drinking man of another drinking family(James Proctor Nicholson- He had quit drinking when I knew him-ED) and surly the mingling of blood of two such families might seem to fordoom the children . (William Hawks had 3 daughters -Lizzie and one of her sisters were morally all right but hell-cats at times-I should not say that for all 3 were as good as pie to me. The son of one-Bill Keller had and has the best natural bass voice I know .) But fortunately there children were all girls who grew up to be good and modest, (OK Ed) *end of Ancestor*

One of their sons my father said had " the old hang dog Hawks look" -He turned out all right after a spell of "Youth-ful folleys-was a 2nd ed Lieu. in the Worlds War. I sicked Martin Myers another son when he was Sup. of Mt Zion to get the U S to put up a marker for his great grandfather William Hawks- we marked the grave and he did so. The Hanks family in Macon county are with very few black sheep. Old John Hanks had one son that forged his name or something like that- one of

his daughters was a conformed shop lifter-kleptomania -to be polite.

Old John himself tho a Camolite is said to have made hoopee one ina while.

John Dunham Hanks son of William Hanks Jr deserted from the Union Army.

One Nancy Hanks or Hawks hid the birth of an infant.

This seems to me to be a good record for the Hanks family.

One more bit of dirt- Jesse Hanks son of William Hanks is said to have tryed to choke his second wife-his son pulled him off- Jesse is said to have killed himself He wanted his own way and got mad if he could not get it.

.My friend Frank Sawyers told me yeaterday that a Hawks used to work in Hickory Point Ty. and went to Forsyth and got roaring drunk-~~H~~ranks father said"just like his old grandfather"(Casher E D)

Stephens R Sheppard bought a farm near Boiling Springs and is buried in Boiling Springs Cemetery- John Hanks is buried here.

Sam B Dewees is buried not far from William Hanks Jr in the Spanglers C (Brush Coledge) . There is a big monument to the Dewees Bros.and one on each side too with their name on it , to each brother.

William Hawks and Casher are in the Chas. Emerson C.(North Fork.)

William Austin told Frank Sawyers that the U S marker to his grandfather William Warnick-was cut William Warrick.

In looking over my notes I find this- We the undersigned qualified voters of Decatur district recomend Seth Sennett as a fit person to fill the office of Constable in said district. Aug. 20,1830. Signed wither others by

Wm Hanks Joseph Hanks J B Brown Dennis Hanks. Joseph Stevens.I Pugh .

I found last week in the Road Papers of 18 60 - the plat and field notes of the old Springfield Road from Andrew Wilsons (Mt Zion) to Springfield surveyed by A aron Vandeers but platted by John D Wright March 5,1834.

The map is at least 10 feet long and about 4 inches wide.

It uses a term that is new to me ie 8 outs from Andrew Wilsons to the first point west and 5 outs and 4 chains to the next.

I am working now on old roads. in particular this road and the cut off the

Decatur -Paris roads-John D Wright platted both.

There is a Lincoln Marker at the south ^{east} ~~west~~ corner of Sec. 9 - Range 4 ³ east of ~~3~~ PM Ty. 15 north . Ollie Scott (Smith History of Macon County page 282) told me over 10 years ago that it was not in the right place..

The marker says -Abraham Lincoln traveled this way as he Rode the Circuit of the 8th Judicial District 1847-1859..

The County records show or seem to show that the road never went this way till in 1866.

I never found all the proof till last week.

Edwin Davis.

PS -The map of 1865 in the Public Library and one in the Atlas of Macon Co published in 1874 by Wariner and Beers -a map of Macon Co and Moultrie Co. Show the old Springfield $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile south of marker.

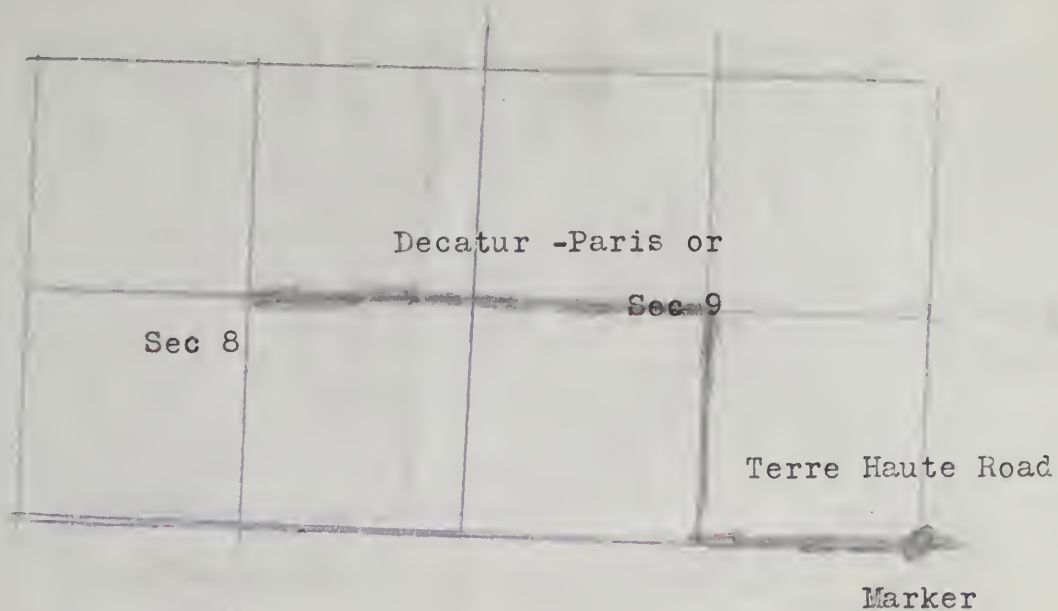
The map of Mt Zion Ty. in the Atlas is a later map and shows it on Section or $\frac{1}{2}$ Section lines. 10 years ago there was an Atlas in Library showing the Decatur-Paris- Lovington with the angling through Sec. 9-but it is gone,

These 2 roads joined before the bridge over the river.
Edwin L Davis



(over)
Range 4 east 3 P M

Town 15



as laid out on Oct 20, 1866 Road Papers County Clerks Office Decatur

There is one doubt in one map Aug 16, 1839 from Decatur by Allens and Reads mill from Decatur to Pariss by bridge over the Little Ocaw west of Lovington that seems to run a road straight past the marker at the S E corner of Sec 9 on the line between Macon and Moultrie Co.

But the map of 1852 in the plat book of original surveys shows it was not there.

Or if it was there were 3 roads angling 2 in section 9.

The map of 1839 has the road run north of Mt Zion -all the others and there are several runs it through the city.

Lincoln must have entered Macon Co (as it now is) - $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile south of the marker in 1830.

When he road the Circuit he must have went this way or on the Decatur -Paris sometimes called the Lovington road $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile north of Marker.

In all my maps up is north.

I dont find it that way in many of the old road maps.-it is confusing.

I believe the map maker in 1839 layed a ruler on the map and run it across the
E D.

sections hit or miss. -there are 2 maps in 1839 one is a distance and angle map,

(over)

Lincoln Marker

Range 4 east of 3ed P M

Plat Road Papers Recorders Office 1865

New Springfield Road

Sec 7 Sec 8 Sec 9

Old Road

New Road

Sec 18 sec 17 Sec 16

Mark

~~Sec 7~~

SECRET

Sec 8

Sec 9

02

Road.

New Road

Marker

Sec 18

sec 17

Sec 16

September 18, 1941

Mr. Edwin D. Davis
R.R. No. 7
Decatur, Ill.

My dear Mr. Davis:

I am more anxious than ever to see you complete your history of Macon County after receiving your recent letter.

It is very evident you are going to dig out a lot of documentary material that will help to give a more vivid picture of the community into which Abraham Lincoln moved when he left Indiana.

The other day I mentioned the Estray notices as being especially valuable because of the fact that they locate the actual spot where the individual who found estray animals lived and in that respect it is the most accurate of all county records with reference to residences with the possible exception of the will book, and a signer of the will may say "Where I now live."

Thank you very much for the interesting information which you continually make available.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

September 19, 1941

Mr. Edwin D. Davis
R. R. #7
Decatur, Illinois

My dear Mr. Davis:

Well, you have found a gold mine this time and most certainly the court should have it multigraphed and preserved. I would not be surprised if you discovered that all of it is in the hands of Abraham Lincoln.

This ought to be good for another Lincoln Lore as it was stray notice which I discovered in the Kentucky court house which changed the whole history of the Lincoln family two years as far as historians are concerned. By all means, urge the photographing of this document and if you are successful in getting a copy, I would be very happy indeed to have use of it and make you one or two extra photostats for its use.

Thank you also for your further information on the old road which should be material help in definitely designating the original highway.

Very truly yours,

LAW:BST

Director

7

THE ABRAHAM LINCOLN ASSOCIATION

LOGAN HAY, PRESIDENT

ROBERT E. MILLER, TREASURER

PAUL M. ANGLE, SECRETARY

HARRY E. PRATT, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



PURPOSES:

"To observe each anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln; to preserve and make more readily accessible the landmarks associated with his life; and actively to encourage, promote and aid the collection and dissemination of authentic information regarding all phases of his life and career."

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Sept. 22, 1941

Dear Dr. Warren:

The photostat of the earliest Macon County Lincoln document came a couple of weeks ago and I have never thanked you for your kindness in sending it. I am prompted to do it now by the letter of Davis in which he says he has found a second document. No doubt he has sent you a copy of it already. It might also make an interesting item for Lincoln Lore. If you do not have a copy of the laws giving the Estray Law at that time I shall be glad to copy it for you. I went through a couple thousand estray notices here but found only two with Lincoln's name on them. In neither case did he write or sign them. They are listed in the day by day under Nov. 14, 1834 and May 29, 1835. Estray notices at \$1 apiece was one of the best rackets of the State Printer, as each notice had to be printed in his paper along with the local paper.

Sincerely,

Harry

September 24, 1941

Mr. Harry E. Pratt
First National Bank Bldg.
Springfield, Illinois

My dear Mr. Pratt:

Thank you very much for your offer to loan us your book on the Estray Laws, and I think it is quite likely we would use a copy of Lincoln Lore to tell the story of Mr. Davis' new find which I think is interesting indeed.

If in working up the Lincoln Lore I find need of the book you mention, I will be very happy to send for it, but just now I rather feel as if the story will be centered about Lincoln's livestock, hogs, horses, or things he may have had in the way of domestic animals.

Do not feel that we have forgotten you with respect to our photostat files. You probably know Miss Barry has resigned and is to be married this next month. I do have a very efficient young lady who has taken her place and we are now bearing down on a very accurate card index of every known Lincoln writing which supplements the work we have done heretofore.

Miss Putman is now going through the Hertz volume, which will complete her checking, and we are going after an enormous amount of new clippings which we have recently acquired to see what we can do in the way of supplementing our facsimile file. Of course, we will make duplicates of everything we find for your collection.

Very truly yours,

LAW:VW

Director

Decatur Treasures Memories

Square Marks First Camping Grounds

February—the birth month of the martyred Abraham Lincoln of Illinois. So Eddie Doherty, Chicago Sun writer, has visited Lincoln's birthplace in Kentucky, his boyhood home in Indiana, and the scenes of his young manhood in Illinois. In a series of articles, of which this is the fourth, Mr. Doherty retraces the Lincoln pilgrimage in terms of today and recounts the Lincoln legend.

Dear Abe:

Do you remember your first night in Decatur? You and your family came in, tired and dusty, after the long trip from Indiana, and you camped for the night in the courthouse square.

I have an idea there wasn't much to see. Maybe a blacksmith shop and a hay and feed store. Maybe a tavern full of long-haired louts. And maybe a crossroads store near the courthouse.

Anyway, Abe, Decatur remembers you. That old camping ground of yours is now known as Lincoln Square. There's a Lincoln theater, and a Lincoln cafe close by. And there's a little round house plumb in the center of the square—the bus station.

The courthouse has been moved into Fairview Park and there are plaques tacked to its logs to show you tried several cases there in your circuit days. The only reason it is of interest, Abe, is because of you.

In the public library there is a collection of Lincolniana, the gift of Miss Jane E. Hamand. It contains many early pictures of you, and of your family. But the most interesting relic to me was a pen holder loaned to the library by Clara L. Abel. Abe, this was made of the original flooring of your home in Springfield. Who knows better than you what sturdy walnut timbers were used in that floor? Yet those timbers were so worn by the feet of pilgrims it was necessary to replace them. Out of one of them, some old-timer whittled the penholder. And now that precious bit of wood is under glass, guarded day and night.

Does that give you any indication, Abe, how dear you are to us?

Visits Newspaper Office.

I dropped into the Decatur Herald-Review office and spoke to Mr. E. O. McCann, one of the many Americans who has devoted years to the study of your life. He was telling me of a project under way to build a pilgrimage road through Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois so Americans might follow your path through the humble places of the land and learn to know you better.

The plan has gone quite far. Maps have been made. Bills have been passed in the legislatures of the



"AND SO YOU CAME BACK when you could—meaning to live your life there with that girl."

three states. And some parts of the road have been built. But there are many obstacles to the accomplishment of this proposed highway.

Legislators—you know how their minds work, Abe—now and then preach economy. And engineers say, "yes, but look—why build a road through there, when, just a few miles away, there is a good wide road already in use. In other words, why go from Decatur to, say, Beardstown, by the exact route Lincoln took, when you can go by Route 28-X or 33 Alternate? Have you any idea of the problems that would have to be met now by building roads to follow Lincoln's footsteps?"

Road Will Be Marked.

Some day, though, these objections may be overcome, and the hundreds of thousands of people who love you may be enabled to take the exact route you took through the three states. And they will be allowed to get a much better idea of your career, for the road will be properly marked.

"Here," for instance, one marker will say, "is where Abraham Lincoln wrestled Ashley Hickey."

"And here," another will announce, "is where he defended Duff

Armstrong on a charge of murder. Witnesses said they saw Armstrong kill the victim. They saw it in the light of the moon. Lincoln, through an almanac, was able to show that the moon didn't shine that particular

of Lincoln

Pilgrimage Road Plan
Pushed by Townsfolk

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1943

night, therefore the witnesses must be lying."

There are markers all over this part of Illinois, Abe. There is one that marks the spot of the house you and your father erected on the Whitley farm about eight miles west of Decatur.

Marker Wasn't Accurate.

A few years ago there was a builder erected by patriotic citizens to mark this site. But they were at least two and a half miles away from being accurate.

That house has vanished completely. It has turned to sawdust and gone back into the soil, or become the food of termites or of souvenir hunters. There is only a marker to show where it stood.

It is a desolate place, Abe, and altogether unvisited. But you will be glad to know that in the immediate neighborhood are two tremendous war plants working day and night—as you did—for the freedom of mankind.

I didn't stay long in Decatur. I took a bus to Springfield, stopped at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in that city, and made arrangements for a visit to Lincoln's New Salem.

The Name Is Everywhere.

Are you surprised to know we've called a hotel after you? Don't be. We have called cities after you, and townships, and counties. We have used your name to exploit toys, candies, syrups, office buildings, churches—in fact most everything except razor blades and razors.

The Alton Railroad has named a train after you, and christened the engine with water drawn from the old well outside the Lincoln and Berry store in your New Salem. And an auto manufacturer has built a car known as the Lincoln, which isn't a bad car at all.

Of course you know that your head adorns every penny issued by the mint. Uncle Sam must love the penny, as you might say, because he made so many of them. In the Lincoln Village in Rockport, Ind., there is a wishing well. You throw some coins into an old gourd that lies on a wire mesh over the well, then make a wish—which is supposed to come true. I made a wish there, Abe, and threw some Lincoln pennies in the gourd.

Of course I could have put a \$5 bill in the gourd. Your picture is on the bill. But the impulse to do so didn't hit me until I was hundreds of miles away and safe.

There was only one way to get to New Salem, I discovered. That was by bus. It's too far for taxis,

under the gasoline regulations. Friends with their own cars would be glad to give me a lift out there and back, only "the little wife ruined the jalopy just the other day," or "funny thing happened this morning, she just wouldn't start."

Of course I could have walked there and back. But I'm so chuckle-headed I never gave that possibility a thought. Many and many a Boy Scout walks the distance from New Salem to Springfield. You can see troops of them hiking along the road in summer in emulation of you, refusing all offers of assistance, determined to make the entire distance under their own power to earn a merit badge for this hike.

Abe, I wonder how many American Boy Scouts who hiked along that road, thinking of you and determined to be like you when they grew up, are now hiking along roads in Africa, or scouting through the jungles and the brush of Guadalcanal or New Guinea.

Where Abe Saw Ann.

Yes, I took the bus. The driver let me out at the entrance to the park. I hiked the rest of the way.

But, seriously now, I would have walked every step of the 20 miles or so from Springfield—if there had been no other way of traveling—had I been given any adequate idea of what I would find in New Salem.

You came down the Sangamon River to New Salem on a flat boat. Your boat got caught on the dam. You were delayed. You saw a beautiful girl, Ann Rutledge. And so you came back when you could—meaning to live your life there with that girl.

I came down the road, and climbed a long hill up to the village site. I saw no girl. I saw two young boys—Chicago lads of 15 or 16—listening raptly to the words of a guide showing them through the village.

I saw the village, and I saw you, Abe. And, like you, I vowed that some day I would come back—some day when I had lots of time.

Going Back 100 Years.

A hundred years drops off the pilgrim, once he tops the hill. It is astonishing to lose a hundred years in a few moments. And it is comforting, too.

There is no war. There are no

radios blaring in one's ear. Have you heard about radio, Abe? You can sit in your parlor, or speed along a road in your car, and listen to the King of England, for instance, telling the world he loves a lady and so has decided to give up his throne. Or you can hear a story of two frightened children and how they solved their problems through the blessings of a new-fangled kind of soapsuds. You can hear operas, or listen to somebody abusing the President with all the venom of his being. Yes, Abe, the President of the United States is made to appear just as big a black-guard and fool as you were when you were President.

No radios. No moving pictures. Pictures that move and talk, Abe, and do the most outlandish things you can imagine. No autos. No skyscrapers—buildings made of steel and concrete and towering hundreds of feet into the clouds. No telephones, machines by which a man can talk around the world.

Nothing to remind one that he lives in the 20th century except an occasional cigarette butt lying in the mud—or on the new hard roads laid down for the benefit of pilgrims.

First Smile of Spring.

Peace and serenity reign here. Birds sing to break your heart. Spring has smiled for the first time, but has not yet made her promise. A woodsman's ax makes music in an unseen copse. Somewhere a rooster crows, and, faintly, hens cackle.

And you, Abe Lincoln, are living here the most important years of your life, studying the classics, studying higher mathematics, studying law, studying the whims and caprices of a girl. You are waiting on customers in your store, you are surveying, you are a captain of volunteers in the Black Hawk War, you are postmaster, candidate, champion wrestler, and bashful and ardent lover.

A hundred years! How quickly it was sloughed off my skin. A word from the guide. How fast the century has gone! Ann is dead. And you are dead. New Salem itself is dead and gone—and all one sees is an illusion!

Goodnight, Abe. I'll write you more about New Salem tomorrow, and about the doings in Springfield to celebrate your birthday. If I don't get that bus I'll really have to walk. And 20 miles is 20 miles today just as it was a hundred years ago. Yours in haste,

EDDIE DOHERTY.

31 ACTIVE YEARS LEAVE LINCOLN'S MARK ON ILLINOIS

Trails Crisscross State; Memorials Dot It.

[This is the final article in a series by Philip Kinsley describing the trails and memorials of Abraham Lincoln's life for the 52 years that he spent on the frontiers of Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. The series is intended as a guide book for Lincoln pilgrims.]

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. [Special].—Central Illinois is crisscrossed with Lincoln trails and dotted with memorials of his 31 active years in this state as legislator, lawyer, and candidate. He was always close to this earth. It clung around his toes as a boy and settled on his saddlebags as a circuit riding lawyer. He was close to the men of earth, farmers and laborers, and felt the mystic strength and healing touch of the woods, the streams, and the prairies. He, too, went into the wilderness and communed with his heavenly Father in times of stress.

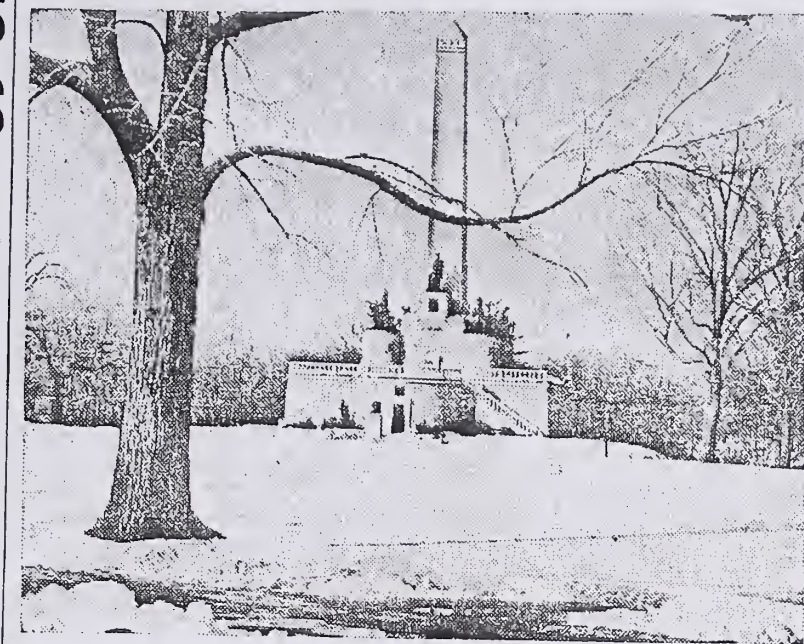
From New Salem and Springfield the first oft-traveled trail of Lincoln was to the old capital of Vandalia. This is reached now on route 24 to Pana and on route 51, a matter of 68 miles. In his day it was traveled by horse or stage coach. He was elected first in 1834 and served four terms, two of them in Vandalia. In 1837 Springfield was selected as the capital, largely by the work of the "Long Nine" group of legislators, of which Lincoln was the leader.

Old Capital Is Landmark.

Vandalia has forgiven Lincoln for this now and has as its most treasured landmark the old capital, built in 1836, in which Lincoln sat. It is of colonial type of architecture, strongly made of hand hewn logs. It is now getting its face lifted and is to be refurnished as it was in Lincoln's time and kept as a state shrine.

It was here that the first Illinois school laws were passed and the act incorporating the "town of Chicago." It was in this time, also, that northern Illinois was saved from being made a part of Wisconsin. It contains many of the original items of furniture, including the stairs to the upper chamber where the senate and assembly sat. The hand hewn bench at the back, uncomfortable as an old fashioned church pew, where Lincoln sat, is pointed out by Custodian Rollie Harris, and the desk used by Stephen A. Douglas. The old gavel marks, showing deep poundings, are on the speaker's desk.

Lincoln studied law hard while in the legislature and on March 1, 1837, was granted admission to the bar. It is related that on the day that he went to receive this degree in law,



[TRIBUNE Photo.]

Abraham Lincoln's tomb in Springfield, which is visited annually by thousands.

clothes, he saw a pig mired in the mud near the old Kaskaskia bridge. He passed on, unwilling to soil his clothes, but two miles away turned back, waded into the mud and rescued the pig.

Trail Passes Mother's Grave.

From Vandalia one may cut across on the old national road between Washington and St. Louis and reach Vincennes, where the main Lincoln Memorial trail comes out of Kentucky and Indiana. Here the route is north and west thru Decatur to Springfield. In Indiana this trail passes the grave of Lincoln's mother, deep in the woods of a 1,365 acre park, and south of Mattoon, in the roadside cemetery of Shiloh church the grave of Thomas Lincoln, his father, and Sarah Bush Lincoln, his stepmother.

Outside of this trail, now a national memorial highway, one of the most heavily traveled Lincoln trails is that which is called the Eighth Judicial district, where he rode every year, trying hundreds of law cases. This was marked out by Lincoln himself in red lines on a map published in 1843. He drew a zigzag route out of Springfield to the following points:

Springfield to Postville, to Tremont, to Metamora, and to Bloomington, where he usually stopped, altho it was not then in the circuit. From that town on to Dewitt, to Monticello, to Urbana, to Danville, to Paris, to Sullivan, to Shelbyville, to Taylorville and back to Springfield. The circuit, county lines, and county seats have been changed somewhat from that time, and had been changed even when Lincoln drew his map. Any tour of his circuit riding days must include Mount Pulaski and Beardstown, where important original memorials have been preserved.

Where Noted Lawyers Gathered.

The Metamora courthouse, 15 miles northeast of Peoria on route 116, is the only original building left in the old circuit. This stands in the town square as a pre-civil war monument where Lincoln, Douglas, Robert G. Ingersoll, Adlai Stevenson, Judge David Davis, and other noted lawyers foregathered. Here they fought in court, swapped stories as they sat on the benches under the courtyard trees or in the Metamora House across the square.

There are a table and a cupboard from the old tavern in the courthouse, which is now a museum and sanctuary presided over by Miss Lillian Theena, custodian. The original bench and rails and some original chairs are still there; also a table out of which a notch had been cut so that Lincoln could get his knees under it. The museum also has more remote pioneers in the form of coral, trilobites, and a mastadon bone dug up along the Mackinaw river in the county. It is filled with relics of pioneer days.

The Mount Pulaski courthouse, a two story structure built in 1847, has also been acquired by the state and restored to look as it did when Lincoln practiced law there. This is northeast of Springfield or northwest of Decatur, about 30 miles by either route.

Courthouse Still in Use.

Beardstown, original seat of Cass county, western terminus of the Lincoln memorial trail, still uses the red brick courthouse where Lincoln, on May 7, 1858, at a time when he was engaged in preparing for his contest with Douglas for the United States senate, defended Duff Armstrong in the famous trial in which he proved the main prosecution witness a liar by the almanac.

The Beardstown Women's club has erected a marker here "in memory of Abraham Lincoln who for the sake of a mother in distress, cleared her son, Duff Armstrong, of the charge of murder in this hall of justice."

Armstrong was the son of Jack Armstrong, whom Lincoln had beaten in a wrestling match at New Salem and who had later served under Lincoln in the Black Hawk war, and Aunt Hannah Armstrong, who had mended Lincoln's clothes in New Salem days and comforted him after the death of Ann Rutledge. He charged her nothing for his services. The witness against Duff testified what he saw by moonlight and Lincoln produced an almanac showing the moon was not bright enough that night for such a vision.

Boulder Marks Speech Site.

The Broeker drug store across the square, where Lincoln bought the almanac, is still in existence, altho it has been moved two doors from its old site. A boulder in the square marks the site of a Lincoln speech here on Aug. 12 of that same year. This was where Lincoln said "A house divided against itself cannot stand," according to the marker.

No effort has been made to make a memorial out of this courthouse. It is the city hall now and cases are still tried there. The original bench and bar and possibly a jury chair or two are there.

Scenes of the series of seven debates with Douglas in 1858 form another Illinois Lincoln tour, altho Old Main hall in Galesburg, at the entrance of which one of the debates was held, and where he spoke to 20,000 people, is the only original building left. The rest are sites marked by plaques or monuments.

There are few events in Illinois history that have stirred the people as did these debates, in which Lincoln emerged as the leader of the slowly forming forces that led to the emancipation proclamation, forces that had been forming ever since Thomas Jefferson warned against the effects and the result of slavery in this country.

Where Debates Were Held.

The debates, all in 1858, were held as follows: Ottawa, Aug. 21; Freeport, Aug. 27; Jonesboro, Sept. 15; Charleston, Sept. 18; Galesburg, Oct. 7; Quincy, Oct. 13, and Alton, Oct. 15.

Lincoln said at Ottawa: "This is the issue. It is the eternal struggle between two principles—right and wrong—thruout the world. The one is the common right of humanity, the other is the divine right of kings. It is the same principle in whatever shape it develops itself. It is the same spirit that says 'you toil and work to earn bread, and I'll eat it!'"

Ottawa has marked the site in Washington park with a boulder. Freeport has a boulder at North State and East Douglas streets marking the site where Lincoln said: "This government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free." The Jonesboro site has a marker on the fairgrounds. So has Charleston. Quincy has erected an impressive Lorado Taft bas-relief monument in the center of town as its memorial. Alton has marked its site in a park at the foot of Market street.

Challenges Douglas to Debate.

Lincoln made many other speeches during this campaign. At Clinton he told the people that "You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time." Douglas also spoke at Clinton and among other things said that Lincoln had run a grocery store and sold whisky.

"The only difference between Judge Douglas and myself," said Lincoln later, "is that while I was behind the bar he was in front of it."

It was after this that Lincoln wrote a challenge to debate and Douglas accepted.

Other points on the Illinois Lincoln tour map are Dixon, where there is a monument to Lincoln as a soldier; Bloomington, where the state Republican party was organized in 1856 at an anti-Nebraska bill convention, and where Lincoln delivered his famous "lost speech," one in which the reporters were so overwhelmed by the eloquence of the man that they forgot to take notes. In Danville he maintained a law office in 1852 with Ward Hill Lamon. The site of this is the Barnum building in the square.

Says Good-By to Illinois.

All the Illinois trails lead in and out of Springfield, and here it was on the morning of Feb. 11, 1861, that he said good-by to Illinois in the Great Western railway station, now a site in the freight yards near Tenth and Monroe streets.

Lincoln was on his way to visit his stepmother at the old farm in Coles county and then on to Washington and the war and his own martyrdom. He may have felt something of this in the inner vision of his mystic nature, for as he took off his top hat and faced the crowd at the station he was near to tears.

"My friends," he said, "no one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place and the kindness of these people I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when or whether ever I may return, and with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington.

"Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your pray-

ers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell."

The tomb remains. Its granite obelisk lifts high above the trees of Oakridge cemetery, a vast park of hilly woodland so familiar to Lincoln in his home in the west.

Inside the square supporting structure, which is surmounted by bronze statuary of Lincoln and the soldiers who stood behind him in splendid action, is the sarcophagus chamber. This is semi-circular, of St. Genevieve golden marble, with black pilasters and frieze. The light from bronze grills falls upon the replicas of famous Lincoln statues, upon the markers of the family graves, upon the President's flag and the flags of the seven states thru which the Lincoln family passed westward from colonial days, upon the stone coffin, and the words of Stanton engraved in red Arkansas fossil granite above:

"Now He Belongs to the Ages."

Lincoln's Macon County Life Related by Edwin D. Davis

Abraham Lincoln's life in Macon county was reviewed yesterday for the Lions club weekly luncheon meeting by grey-haired humorous Edwin D. Davis, rural route 7, whose family knew the Lincoln and Hanks families.

Mr. Davis summed up:

"In March, 1830, Abraham Lincoln entered Macon county, driving oxen from the direction of the rising sun. In March, 1831, he fades down the Sangamon river in a canoe, in true movie style. In February, 1861, he passes through the county on a special train to his post of President—to glory, martyrdom and immortality."

Trip From Kentucky

Mr. Davis related that in 1828 John Hanks came from Kentucky, and he sent word to Lincoln of the fine woods and prairies advising the family to come to Illinois, which they did. As Mr. Davis relates, they passed through Mt. Zion to the ford on Finley's Creek, turning north near Mt. Gilead on the Shelbyville road, crossing the Sangamon river and Indian Bluff on the Ward ferry near the dam. They entered Decatur on South Main street and stopped at what is now Lincoln square.

John Hanks led them to a spot on the north bank of the Sangamon river on the southwest quarter of Section 28. They built a cabin there.

Got Lincoln's Girl

For 1830, Mr. Davis said:

"Lincoln is said to have shown interest in Mary (Polly) Warnick, daughter of Sheriff Warnick, who did not want Lincoln for a son-in-law. As she married Joseph Stevens, it would not seem to have been a desperate affair, although Joseph Stevens boasted, after a few drinks that he got Lincoln's girl. Lincoln saw Jemima Hill, a sister of Francis Green Hill, home a time or two.

"He split rails for a sister of John Hanks, Mrs. Nancy Miller, in exchange for brown jeans cloth for a pair of trousers, 400 rails for each yard.

"As it took several yards to cover long-legged Abe, it is not much wonder he sometimes had holes in his knees and was short in the leg, for as he said himself, his father taught him to work, but never learned him to like it." Lincoln made rails for William Warnick, and on land he really owned: it was on the 40 acres where the Warnick cemetery is."

Appraised Estrayed Mare

In the fall of 1830, Mr. Davis related, Jonathan Bosier Brown, a brother-in-law of John Hanks, took an estrayed mare, and Lincoln and John W. Reed appraised it before Philip D. Williams, justice of peace, where Greider's cafe is. That was the second public document signed by Lincoln. Mr. Davis said, and added that he found it among estray papers in the county clerk's office.

"In the spring," Mr. Davis said, "John Hanks and Lincoln hired out to Denton Offut to run a flat boat from Springfield down the Sangamon, Illinois and Mississippi river to New Orleans.

Lincoln rode the circuit of the eighth district from 1847 to 1859. Records prove, Mr. Davis said, that Lincoln did practise law in the Lincoln log court house, which was offered for rent in 1838 when the new brick court house came into use. Mr. Davis related Brick court house cases, including Jacob Spangler vs. Samuel and Henry Wood, over some notes. The verdict was for the plaintiff. On Emerson's plea for Wood is written, "and the plaintiff doth the like," signed "Post and Lincoln." Lincoln's fee, Mr. Davis said was five dollars.

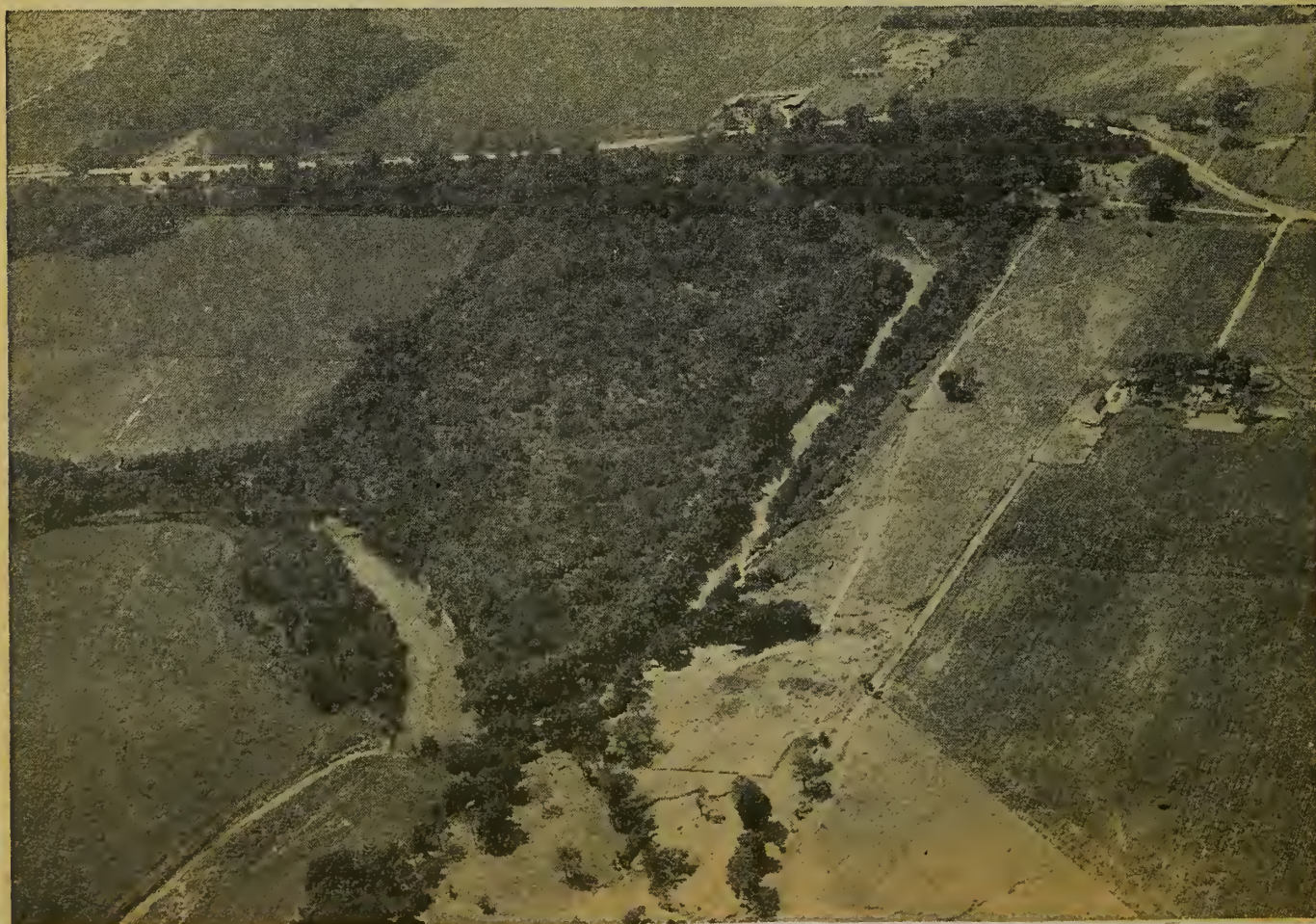
Describes House

"Emerson's house with its fine many cases, Mr. Davis said. He added:

Emerson's house with its fine handmade walnut open, winding staircase stands 70 feet north of the new airport. His barn is unusual with its extra heavy rafters slanting to the peak from the north and south and lighter ones running east and west between. The hay mow was, from the floor up, a fine place for a barn dance, but wasted I fear, as the neighbors were not dancing men."

PAPER Herald
TOWN Decatur, ILL.
DATE Feb 12, 1946

Macon County Site of Lincoln's First Illinois Ho



Abraham Lincoln's first home in Illinois was located in Macon county, on a bluff high above

the Sangamon river. The Lincoln log cabin is thought to have been located on the dark

spot just to the left of the single tree at the corner of the corn-field (lower right).



The Lincoln National Memorial highway, which forms the approach to the Homesite park,

follows, as well as historians have been able to trace it, the route taken by Lincoln and his

family in their migration from Indiana to their new home in Macon county. The state plans

to improve the new park and erect a replica of the original log cabin, which was lost

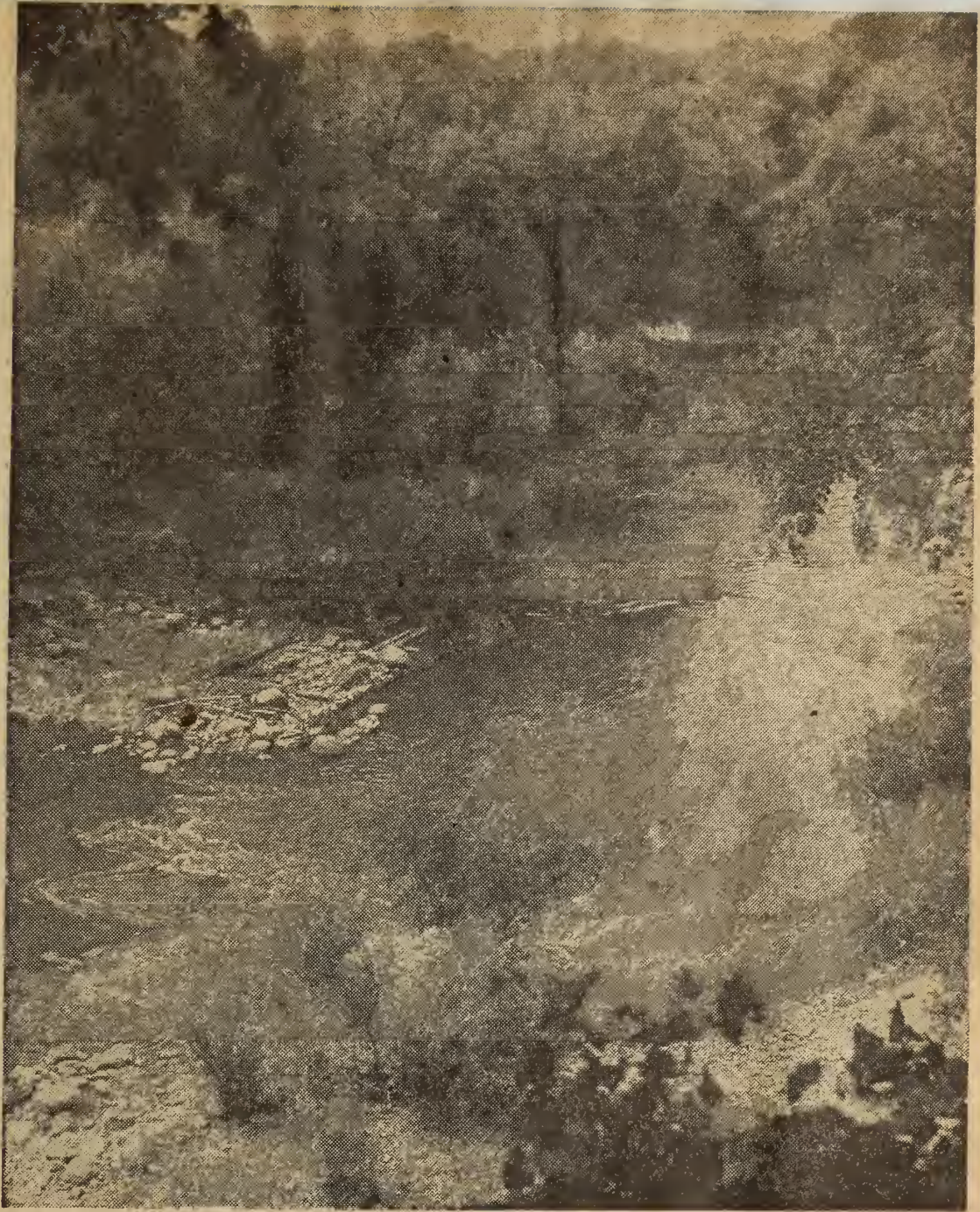
when it was taken to England for exhibition.
(Herald and Review photos)

Abraham Lincoln once wrote an autobiographical sketch, in which he said:

"March 1, 1830, Abraham having just completed his twenty-first year, his father and family, with the families of the two daughters and sons-in-law of his stepmother, left the old homestead in Indiana and came to Illinois. Their mode of conveyance was wagons drawn by ox teams, and Abraham drove one of the teams. They reached Macon and stop-

ped there some time within the same month of March. His father and family settled a new place on the north side of the Sangamon river at the junction of the timberland and prairie, about ten miles westerly from Decatur. Here they built a log cabin into which they removed, and made sufficient of rails to fence ten acres of ground, fenced and broke the ground, and raised a crop of sown corn upon it the same year . . ."





Gazing down from the top of the bluff, as Lincoln must have done many times, one looks up-

on a shallow place in the Sangamon. The river tumbles over the rocks with a bubbling and

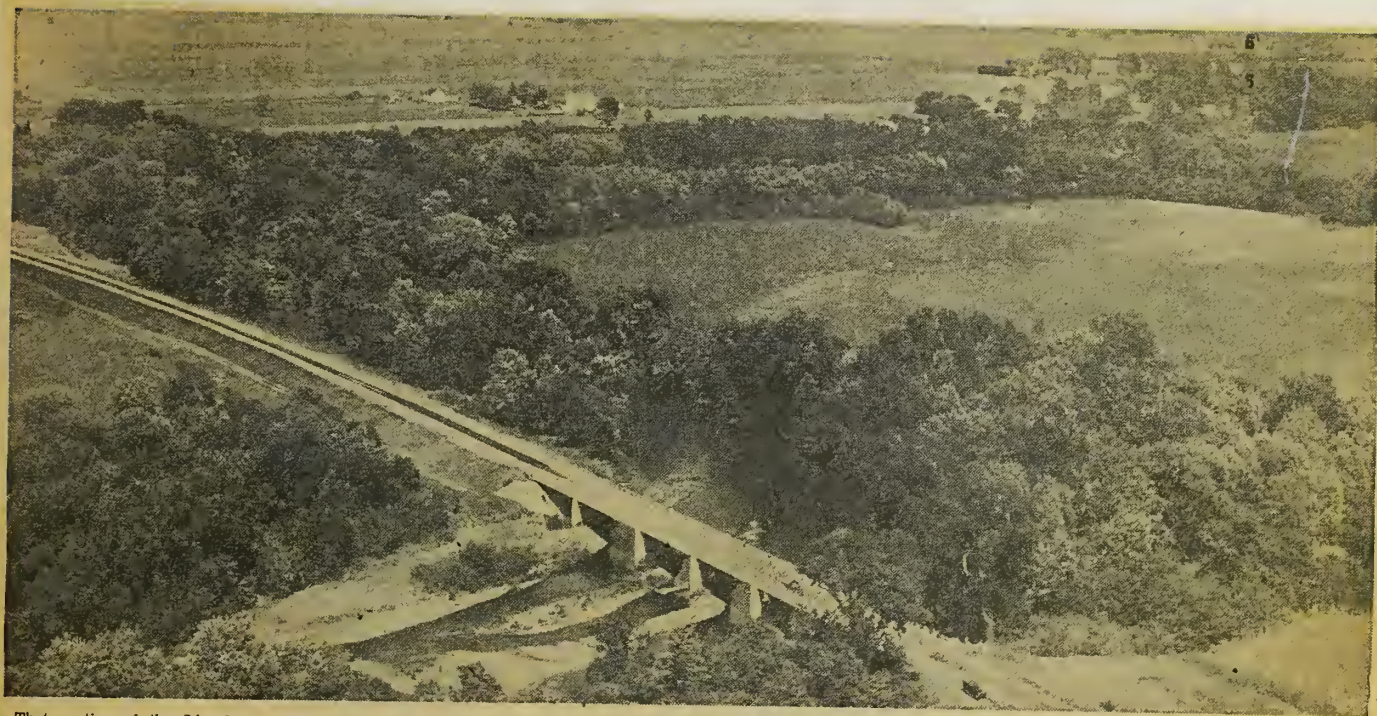
gurgling that blends with the rustle of wind through the leaves into a lullaby of nature.



Quietly flows the peaceful Sangamon river past the foot of the bluff (left, center)

at the top of which the Lincoln family built its first Illinois home. The bluff is locat-

ed at the base of a large horseshoe bend in the Sangamon.



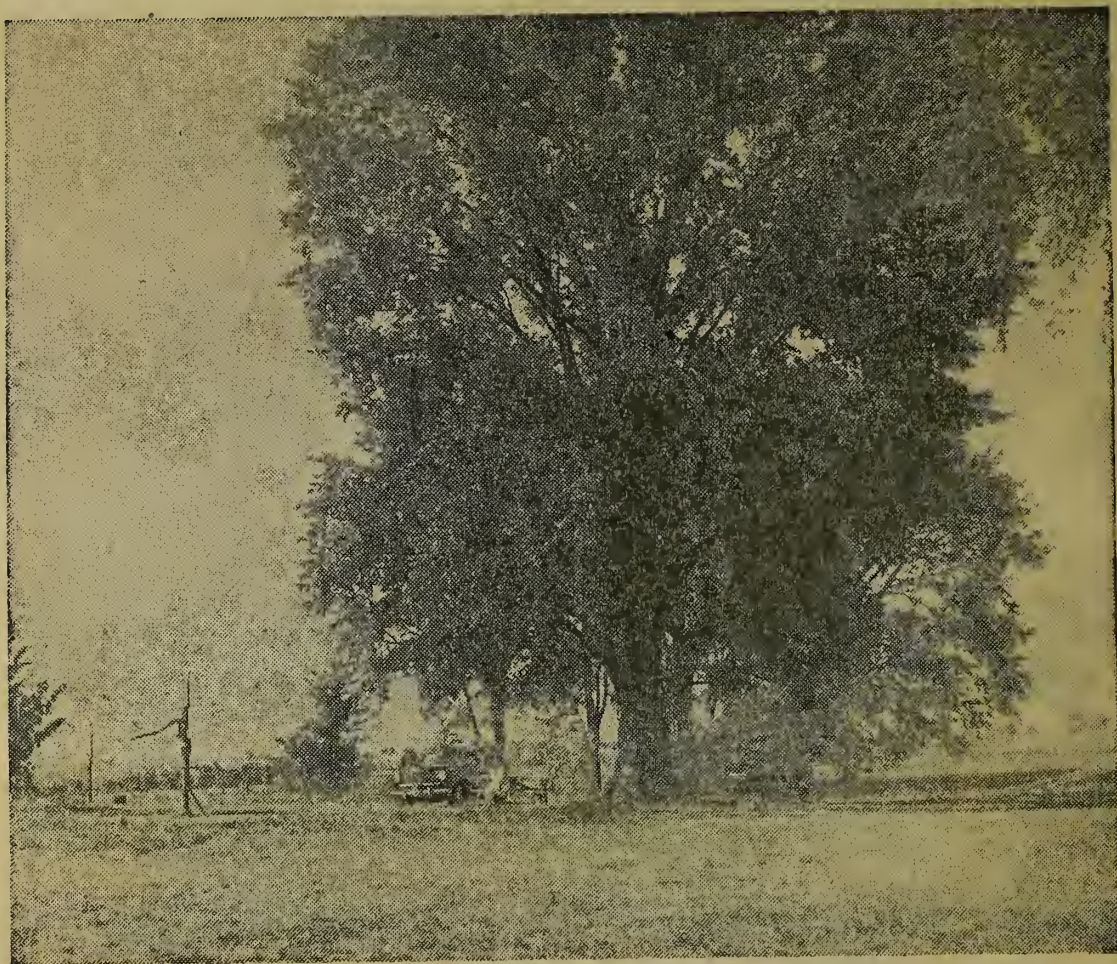
That portion of the Lincoln Homesite park which stretches north along the river from the

highway bridge was given to the state by John Dipper in 1937. A bronze plaque on a

granite rock was recently dedicated to recognize Mr. Dipper's gift. The rest of the

land was purchased earlier by Macon county from J. T. Whitley and Alonzo Hall and given

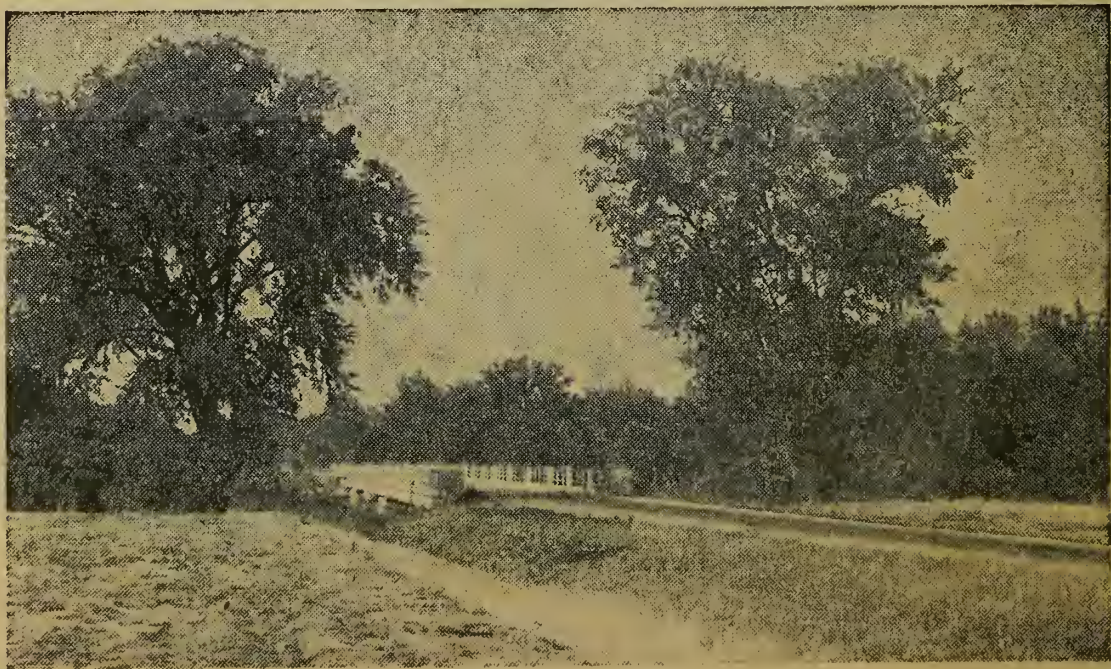
to the state for the purpose of establishing the park.



Picnic grounds have been established near the entrance to the new Lincoln Homesite park.

To reach the park from Decatur, take the Springfield road to the point, west of Harristown,

where the Lincoln National Memorial highway turns south; drive south to park entrance.



Built just before the war, a new concrete highway bridge permits approach to the Macon

county homesite of Lincoln from the south. The bridge, which is flanked by two large

trees, is located at the southern tip of the Lincoln Homesite park.

OTTO R. KYLE
1421 West Wood Street
Decatur, Illinois

December 15, 1958

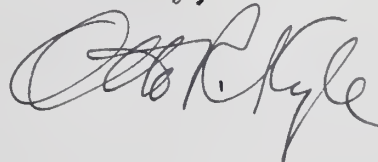
Mr. R. Gerald McMurtry,
Lincoln National Life Foundation,
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Dear Mr. McMurtry:

I am enclosing a letter and three photostats from my file received from the New York Times library in March, 1953, for your information. Of course I would like to have them returned.

I believe your files will show a story that I wrote and which appeared in the Decatur Herald and Review on Sunday, Oct. 4, 1953 under the headline: "Barnum Exhibited Lincoln's Cabin 88 years Ago." Dr. Louis Warren was kind enough to compliment me on the story.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Otto R. Kyle". The signature is fluid and stylized, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle initial.

December 17, 1958

Mr. Otto R. Kyle
1421 West Wood Street
Decatur, Illinois

Dear Mr. Kyle:

Many thanks for letting me see the clippings from the New York Times, September 6, 1865. I have had photostats made for collection. Please find the letter and photostats enclosed.

I have tried to find your article which appeared on Sunday, October 4, 1953 entitled "Barnum Exhibited Lincoln's Cabin 88 Years Ago". Up to date I have failed to find it.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM:hw
enc. 3

AMUSEMENTS

September 18, 1865.

ING.

DIRECT.

YS.—The New-York
UNITED STATES.
on WEDNESDAY.
E. JONES, Commam-
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iver. For freight
10 Barclay-st.

IP COMPANY.
Georgie and

WEDNESDAY
are un-
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AMUSEMENTS.

BARNUM'S NEW AMERICAN MUSEUM.

Broadway, between Spring and Prince sts.
ENTRANCE FREE. ELEGY and LAVISH EXPENDITURE
have produced the

MOST ELEGANT AND BEST VENTILATED

PLACE OF AMUSEMENT IN THE CITY.
OPEN FROM SUNRISE UNTIL 10 P. M.
OVER 100,000 CURIOSITIES.

A SIXTH SALOON
has just been added, in which is exhibited the
IDENTICAL LINCOLN LOG-CABIN
built by ABRAHAM LINCOLN, in Macon County, Illi-
nois, in 1830, and in which he resided for two years.
Original letters from Gov. E. J. Ogleby of Illinois,
Gov. Andrew of Massachusetts, and other distinguished
personages, prove the identity of this historical relic,
undisputed for having been touched by that once power-
ful but now motionless hand. The Common Council of
Boston granted the use of the Common for its exhibition.
John Banks, of Illinois, who assisted Mr. Lincoln in its
erection will be in the cabin to answer all questions.
THREE of the TALLEST GIANTS in the world.
THE LARGEST FAT WOMAN LIVING, and
PRETTIEST CIRCASSIAN GIRLS EVER SEEN.
BOHEMIAN GLASS BLOWERS.
TWO STEAM GLASS ENGINES in motion.
A CHEROKEE INDIAN, born without arms.
Prof. HUTCHINGS' LIGHTNING CALCULATOR.
AFTERNOON AT 7:30. EVENING AT 10.
INCREASED ATTRACTION.
ANOTHER NEW SPECTRAL DRAMA.
SADAK AND KALASHRADE;
OR THE WATERS OF OBLIVION.
SPLendid SCENERY, COSTUMES and EFFECTS.
SADAK'S FEMALE LIFE-GUARD.
MAGNIFICENTLY ARMED AND AC-
COUTRED.

Previous to Spectacle.
MME. MARIE MACARTE, IN BRILLIANT ACTS.
W. B. HARRISON, Extemporaneous Singer.
MAMMOTH PRIZE-FROG, MASTER TIMOTHY,
weighing 90 lbs., in comic evolutions. Learned Seal, Happy
Cosmorama, Stereoscopes, Learned Seal, Happy
Family, Grand Aquarium, Mammoth Turtle, &c.
Admission 25 cts.; Children, under ten, 15 cts.

NIBLO'S GARDEN.

Lessee and Manager.....WM. WHEATLEY.

AMUSEMENTS.

WALLACK'S.

Proprietor and Manager Mr. LESTER WALLACK.
It is respectfully announced that this establishment

will OPEN
for the Fall and Winter season on
THURSDAY, Sept.

During the recess the theatre has been
NEWLY GILDED, PAINTED
THROUGHOUT
MECHANICAL IMPROVEMENTS
have been adopted in the stage.

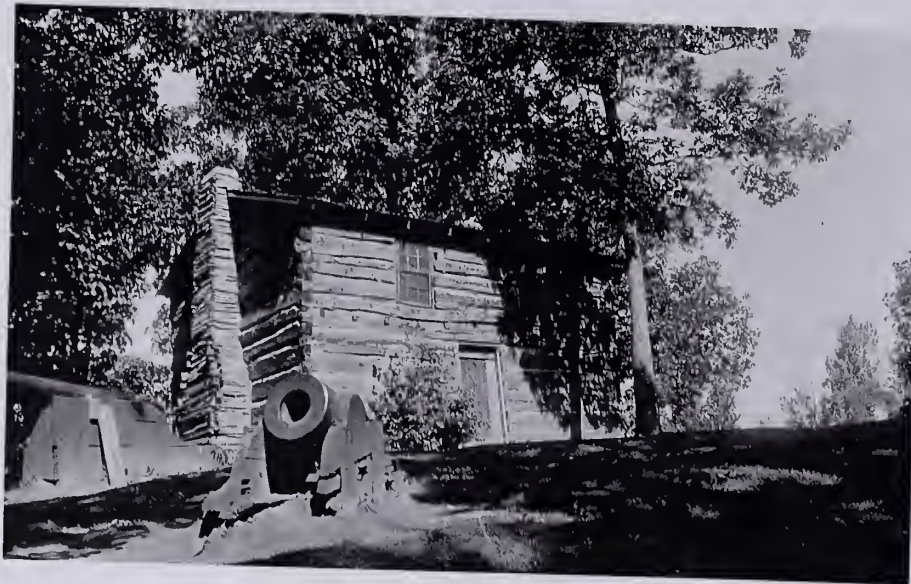
THE COMPANY
will consist of the following:
Mr. LESTER WALLACK,
Mr. JOHN GILBERT,
Mr. MARK SMITH,
Mr. YOUNG,
Mr. RINGGOLD,
appearance here,
Mr. NORTON,
Mr. C. BROWN,
Mr. POPE,
Mr. WARD,
Miss MARY,
Mrs. VERNON,
Miss IONE,
Mrs. JOHN,
Miss GREEN,
Miss KATE,
Miss ST.

Stage
From

Mr. E.

On

Admission



From the desk of—
LOUIS A WARREN

Raymond, Burns
1637 W. Clinton
Brooklyn 84

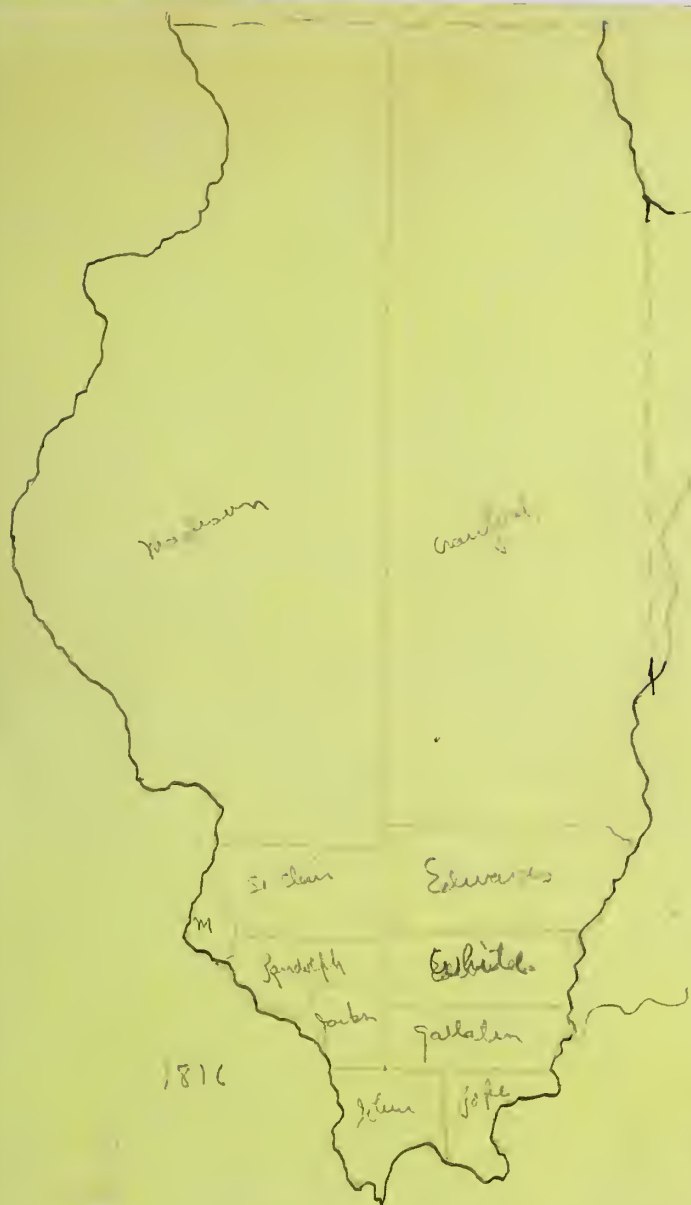
Know about original
cabin

2
The first cabin in Indiana

1. Sallie and her family, out folks and built a log cabin found in some way.
 2. Moved to some south of Indiana and called it Duck Grove. They built a log house and lived there one year.
 3. Then went down in the timber, farther south and built another house. They stayed there but a short time.
 4. Jonathan Cook it in this time he had to leave again. Spring of 1831 came. He went to Clay County, Iowa. He built a cabin on one side and moved it later. He had a second cabin was built along side of it. 13 in family.
- Gudley page 84

Colo County cabin removed to Chicago
and remodeled for the purpose of furnishing boys and young men with the entire homelike and poverty and disadvantages of the frontier; home and early life.

Gudley 275



Blue Book
Delivers
1905.
page 285. -



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MISSISSIPPI RIVER

ILLINOIS RIVER

SANGAMO RIVER

MAKASKIA RIVER

MISSOURI RIVER

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ILLINOIS
1830

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S ILLINOIS

By John T. Faris

THE chief pride of Springfield, Illinois, is that it was from there the nation called Abraham Lincoln to the President's chair. The Lincoln homestead and the Lincoln monument are visible memorials of the great President, whose early life made this entire region famous. At old Salem, on the Sangamon River—the stream that Lincoln, when a candidate for the Legislature, promised to have made navigable—the state has set aside a park to mark the place where the Railsplitter kept store. At Lincoln, near the headwaters of the Sangamon, is preserved the old building in which Lincoln the lawyer pleaded more than once. At Decatur, in the next county, a tablet in Lincoln Square marks the spot where, in 1830, the youth Abraham paused beside his ox wagon when on the way from Indiana to his first home in Illinois. In Alton, to the south, was held one of Lincoln's series of debates with Stephen A. Douglas, when Lincoln lost the United States Senatorship but made the reputation that landed him in the White House in 1861. The debating point farthest north was Freeport, while Jonesboro was the southern limit.

Jonesboro is far down toward Cairo, in that most attractive portion of Southern Illinois called Egypt, the land of strawberries and apples and peaches, of green hills and winding roads, of monumental rocks and streams that stir the blood of those who follow their windings back into the secret valleys

and
Cem.
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ture is generous with her varied gifts.

In the upper portion of the rather indefinitely bounded Egypt the slopes of the Ozark plateau are far from pronounced. The change from the seemingly endless stretch of level prairies to the hills is almost imperceptible. At first there is here and there a gentle dip in the surface, then a more pronounced slope, down, up again, like a dimple in the rounded cheek of a babe; then an actual hill; then a few real hills of the sort that make the weary farmer groan as he toils homeward at the close of the long summer afternoon; finally summits and valleys crowding so close together that there is as much difference between an air line connecting two points and the road that clings to the variations of the surface as one finds between a corkscrew and a plumb

line. Now come the rocky glens of Makanda, the inviting precipice of the Alto Pass region, and finally the eminences that make the location of Anna and Jonesboro so satisfying—the chain of hills that separates the plateau from the fertile overflow lands of the Mississippi Bottoms.

Those who go as strangers to the country of the Ozark plateau will not find it a difficult matter to under-

stand the loyal enthusiasm of those who rejoice that their homes are in the Egypt of Illinois.

Oldtimer Repairing Cabin

Park Superintendent Is Looking for a Frow to Put in the Hands of Bill Corn, Newly Discovered Log-Cabineer

Does anybody have a frow? What is a frow? It is an old time tool used in cutting clapboards for log cabins, and Joe Frazier, Decatur park superintendent, is trying to find one to use in the restoring of the Lincoln log court house in Fairview park.

Many of the arts of log cabin building are being recalled in the reconstruction and the need for the frow is but one of the problems.

Clapboard Roof

Plans call for a clapboard roof. Clapboards are cut from a section of log about 30 inches long and 12 inches thick. The frow, which is a large, hatchet shaped wedge with a handle fastened to one side instead of through the top, is driven into the log to the center and the pieces are pried off by pulling on the handle. The clapboards are wedge-shaped, like shingles, but are heavier and longer.

This craft has apparently passed with the log cabins, Mr. Frazier said. He has located one man, Bill Corn, 2514 Cerro Gordo, an old timer, experienced in log cabin construction. If a frow cannot be found, it is planned to have one made.

Replacing of the logs in the cabin probably will be completed this week, Mr. Frazier said. Two longer and several short pieces were delivered to the park Saturday, and will be hewn and put in place at once. To Bill Corn went the job of hewing the logs which replaced the decayed ones in the walls of the courthouse.

Interior Rebuilt

As soon as the repairs on the exterior are completed, restoration of the interior will start. Webber Borchers, who had the task of checking up on the interior of the cabin, has made a general outline of the plans for the furnishings.

The exact plans of the interior as it was originally arranged could not be learned, but through consultations with members of the University of Illinois historical research department, and talks with old timers of Decatur and vicinity, it was possible to get an idea of the general layout of the court rooms

of those days.

In one end of the room will be located the judge's bench. It will be a literal bench. Judicial prestige will be maintained, however, with the lone desk in the court room. The desk will be a crude table, but it will have the place of honor near the big fireplace, and there will be a couple of tallow candles, possibly the only ones in the room, on it. Also there will be one or two much fingered law books and a Bible, an indispensable part of courtroom equipment in those days.

The rest of the furniture will consist of benches down the center of the room for the spectators, and a bench along the wall for the jurors. There were no benches or tables provided for the lawyers or their clients. The front row of spectators' benches probably were reserved for them.

All Furnishings Replicas

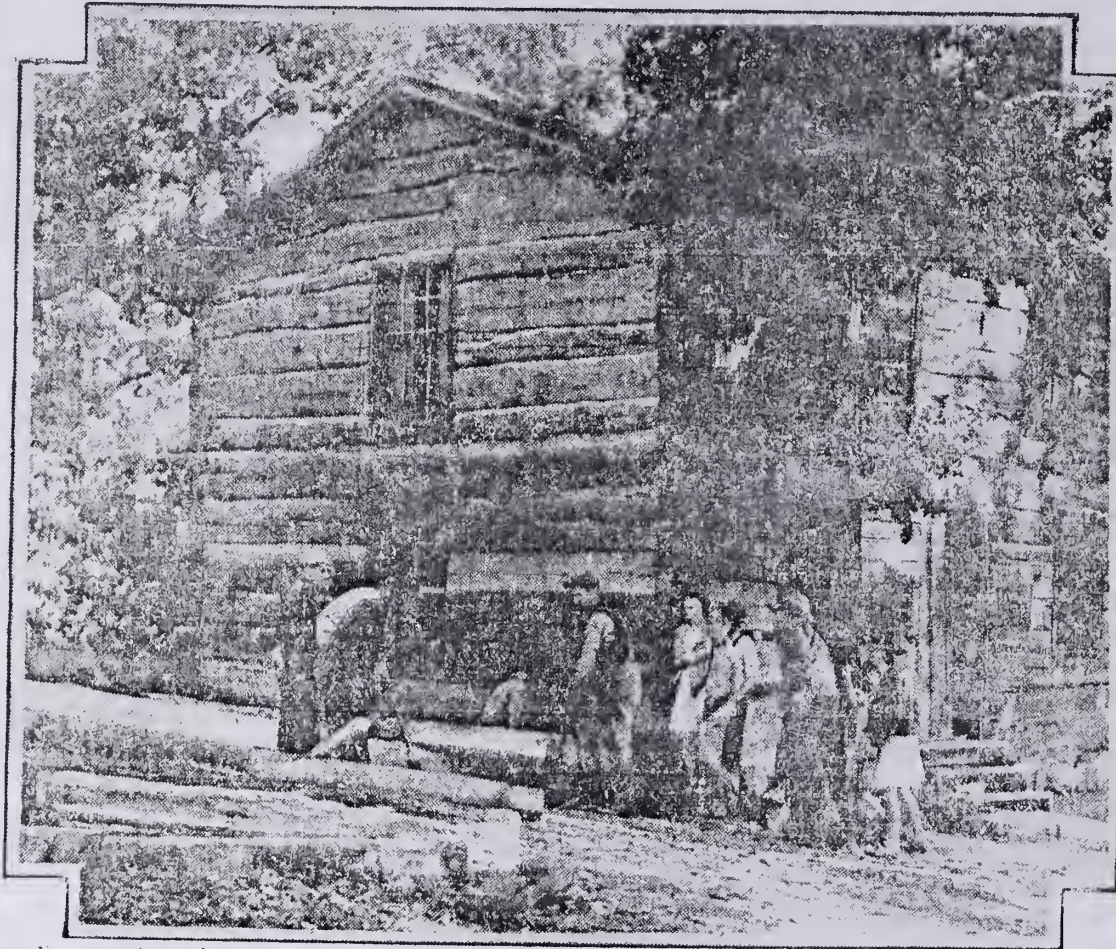
All of the furnishings, Mr. Borchers said, are to be replicas. Original pieces, though some could be obtained, would not be safe there, he explained, because of past experience with souvenir hunters.

Several pairs of wooden hinges, made in the old style, were stripped from the door. The hinges were new ones, put up to preserve the original appearance of the cabin, but the action of the weather soon gave them an aged look. Five other pairs were put up but were stolen in rapid succession, until they were replaced with iron hinges. Now there are evidently six original pair of hinges from Decatur's first courthouse scattered around Central Illinois.

There are in the walls of the structure a few logs that were hewn by Lincoln himself for another building. However, those in charge of the cabin have no intention of making their location known because mutilation of the logs would be the certain result.

The cabin when finished will remain in charge of troop 3, of Boy Scouts, who have occupied it for some time and have spent considerable time and money already in repairing it. Webber Borchers is scoutmaster of this troop.

A FROW IS NEEDED TO FINISH THIS



Restoration of the Lincoln cabin in Fairview park is threatened by the inability of Joe Frazier to find a "frow." At one time "frows" were common—in fact no well regulated home hereabouts was without one for a "frow" was necessary to carve clapboards

from logs and clapboards were necessary to give the finishing touches to log cabins. Aside from the inconvenience caused by lack of a "frow" other items of restoration work are proceeding satisfactorily.

—Herald and Review Photo.



"State Parks and Memorials" is the title of a booklet just issued by the department of public works and buildings. It has for its theme the Illinois park plan, which in accordance with Gov. Louis L. Emmerson's wishes, is directed to improvement or reclamation of every important spot in the state that is hallowed by historic memories.

Many such places have been taken over by the state, the newest accessions in park properties, according to the booklet, being Black Hawk Watch Tower park in Rock Island county, White Pine Forest park in Ogle county, Giant City park in Union and Jackson counties, Fort Gage and Pierre Manard's homestead in Randolph county, Buffalo Rock park in LaSalle county, Mississippi Palisades park in Carroll county, Cave-in-the-Rock park in Hardin county, and the site of Lincoln's log cabin in Coles county.

Other historic spots and parks under supervision of the department, of which Harry H. Cleaveland is director, include the Lincoln monument, Lincoln homestead, Vandalia court house, Douglas monument, Fort Massac, Fort Charters, Old Salem park, Starved Rock park, Shabbona monument, Fort Creve Coeur, Metamora courthouse, Lovejoy monument, Garlson Hill cemetery, Cahokia Mounds park and Campbell's Island monument.

Lincoln Cabin Lost 40 Years

Mysterious Disappearance Still Unexplained

By AUBREY CRIBB

Associated Press Staff Writer
CHICAGO, June 24 (AP)—Last pages of a book, telling all that may be told of the mysterious disappearance prior to the last Chicago World's Fair of the Abraham Lincoln log cabin, were written today by the sole survivor of the association formed in 1890 to preserve it as a memorial.

Forty years since then have served to kill all hope that the cabin Lincoln split rails for and helped build, and which was the home of his mother 30 years, would ever be found. Efforts now center on reconstruction of the cabin, by the measurements and detailed description made when it was taken apart in 1891 and brought to Chicago from its original site in Coles County.

Mrs. Eleanor Gridley, 87, who supervised the removal and has written her second book about the cabin, said John Hall, Lincoln's cousin, received \$10,000 for it.

In Chicago it was reassembled in the exposition building of the interstate fair, pending the opening of the Columbian Exposition. Finally, it was put in storage for safe keeping when the World's Fair was postponed a year, and Mrs. Gridley went to Europe.

When she returned, she related, she was appalled to find the storage room empty. And from Mr. Gunther, the storage house proprietor, all she ever learned was:

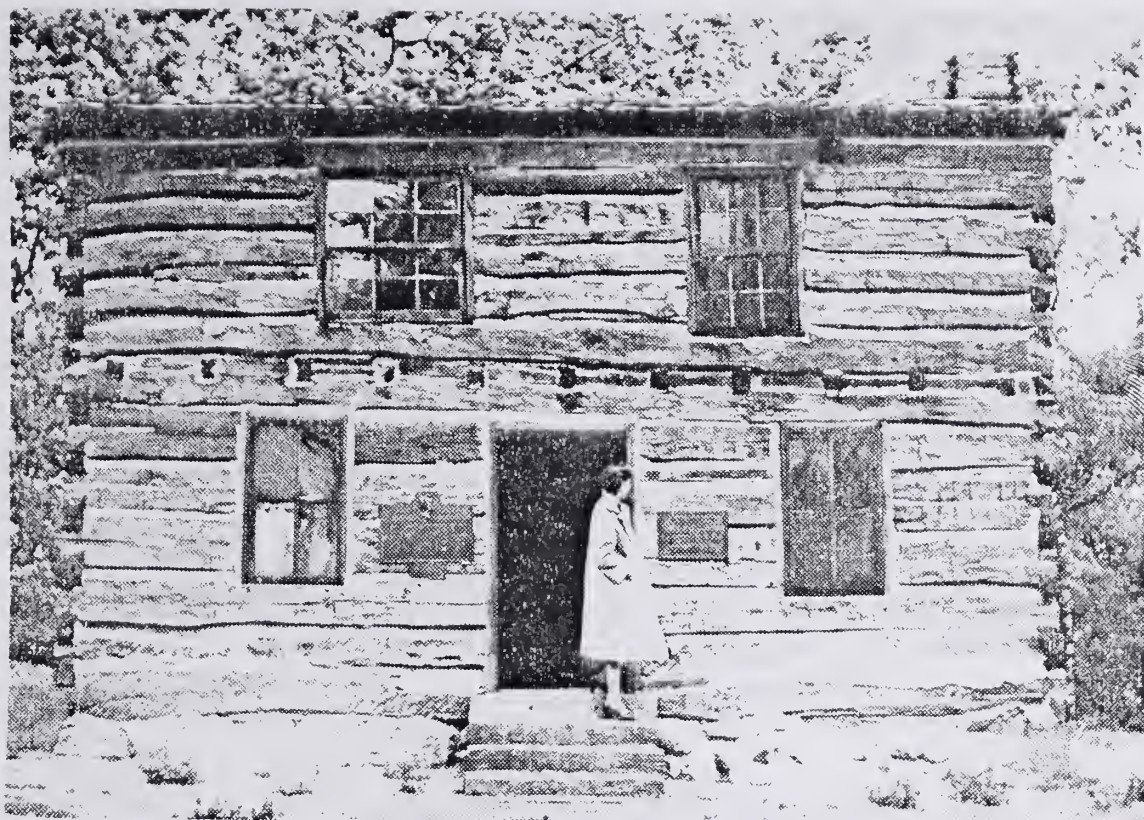
"Perhaps you may find your cabin in the bottom of the sea!"

"Loss of that treasure entrusted to my care," Mrs. Gridley said, "preyed on my mind. I tried to convince myself the cabin had never been brought to Chicago; that I had been dreaming."

Later she said a man at the storage house told her he had helped move the cabin.

"All I have gained throughout the years is circumstantial evidence," she said. "All I could do to solve the mystery is ask 'Why was the cabin destroyed?' and 'Who wanted it destroyed?'"

Finally she said she had come to believe that the persons responsible, necessarily of powerful influence, were those ashamed of the humble origin of Abraham Lincoln, and eager to prevent the exhibition at the World's Fair of the cabin he helped build for his mother.



» historic courthouse is shown below. It attracts many visitors to Fairview park in Decatur. As a rising young lawyer, Abraham Lincoln pleaded many cases in this building.

Illinois And Lincoln Allied In Ideals And Progress In Civil War, Declares Barton

In an address eloquent in its tribute to the Great Emancipator and almost personal in its intimate accounts of his life, Rev. William E. Barton of Oak Park spoke last evening on "The Making of Abraham Lincoln."

It was the annual address of the Illinois State Historical society and closed that body's twenty-second annual session. Dr. Barton, whose researches into the life of Abraham Lincoln have placed him among the leading authorities on that subject and whose writings have made him known the nation over, dwelt at length on the influences which Illinois had upon the life of the American idol.

"Mid way, almost bisecting the two lives, stands Abraham Lincoln between the ages of George Washington and Theodore Roosevelt," he said. "More than the constitutions or laws of a nation do its great men stamp its ideals. A nation's ideals are the ideals of the men who incarnate it.

"Illinois did for Abraham Lincoln what no other state could have done," the speaker declared. This, he added, is a new feature in the study of the Great Emancipator. Throughout the entire address, Dr. Barton emphasized the fact that Illinois and Lincoln, during that critical period, were closely allied in ideals and in progress.

Prior to Dr. Barton's address, Mrs. Gary Westenberger sang the Illinois centennial hymn, "Our Illinois." Two Springfield women, whose families have been active in the history of Illinois, were elected to honorary membership in the Historical society. They were Mrs. Paul Selby and Mrs. Charles Ridgely.

Tells of Union League.

"The Union league," that organization which combatted the secret society which was striving to undermine the morale, the support and the very government behind the Union troops during the dark days of the Civil war, was described in the afternoon session by E. Bentley Hamilton. He told the society how eleven men in Pekin formed the first group to counteract the Knights of the Golden circle and other anti-Union organizations.

"The Union league allayed the threat of Civil war which threatened to divide Illinois against itself," Mr. Hamilton said. "The league's purpose was so invincible, its methods so effective, its vigilance so much the alpha and omega of liberty itself that Union league clubs began to spring up throughout the north."

A brief history of the industrial growth of the state was presented at the morning session by J. M. Glenn of Chicago, secretary of the Illinois Manufacturers' association. He portrayed the progress commercially that Illinois has enjoyed since the arrival of Joliet.

Other afternoon addresses included: "Some Governmental Problems in the Northwest Territory," by Chester J. Attig of Northwestern college at Naperville; "Indian Trails Centering at Black Hawk's Village," by John H. Hauberg of Rock Island; and "Peter Cartwright in the History of Illinois," by William W. Sweet of De Pauw university, Greencastle, Ind.

Honor Stuart Brown.

Another Springfield man was chosen to membership on the board of directors of the society when Stuart Brown was elected to succeed the late Clinton L. Conkling. The following officers were elected:

President, Dr. Otto L. Schmidt, Chicago; first vice president, George A. Lawrence, Galesburg; second vice president, L. Y. Sherman, Springfield; third vice president, Richard Yates, Springfield; fourth vice president, Ensley Moore, Jacksonville; fifth vice president, Charles L. Capen, Bloomington; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber, Springfield; assistant secretary, Miss Georgia L. Osborne, Springfield.

Directors—Edmund J. James, Urbana-Champaign; E. B. Greene, Urbana-Champaign; Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber, Springfield; Charles H. Rammelkamp, Jacksonville; George W. Smith, Carbondale; Richard V. Carpenter, Belvidere; Edward C. Page, DeKalb; Andrew Russel, Jacksonville; Walter Colyer, Albion; James A. James, Evanston; H. W. Clendenin, Springfield; John H. Hauberg, Rock Island; Judge Orrin N. Carter, Evanston; Stuart Brown, Springfield; The Rev. Ira W. Allen, LaGrange.

All of the sessions were largely attended, the supreme court room be-

ing crowded for most of the meetings. At the closing meeting, practically every available seat was occupied. Considerable interest was centered in Dr. Barton's address in view of the fact that he is the author of "Parables of Saged the Sage," a popular feature on the editorial page of The State Journal.

Reception Is Given.

Following his address, a reception for members of the society and their guests was held in the supreme court room.

Dr. Barton's address follows:

"Illinois and Lincoln were twin-born. Nine days before his birth, Illinois became a territory. They, Illinois and its most illustrious future citizen did not then know each other



DR. BARTON

nor the important share they were to have in each other's life. Seven years of Lincoln's childhood were spent in Kentucky, and Kentucky may well be proud of them. Twice seven years were spent in Indiana, and they were years of progress in the life of Lincoln. But when he became a man! Illinois, his own state, beckoned to him and he came.

He started for Illinois just sixteen days after his twenty-first birthday, and the whole of his manhood was spent here, until he left to become the chief magistrate of the nation. When he had finished his work, and crowned it with the sacrifice of his life, Illinois received back again his body, and his sacred dust enriches her prairie soil.

"What did Illinois do for Lincoln? I cannot find that any biographer has dealt adequately with this question. Even Judge Arnold, in his fine biography, goes no farther than timidly to suggest that 'Perhaps he was fortunate in selecting Illinois as his home. The time has come when we can make that statement with more of confidence.

"What does a man's environment contribute to his development? Everything, says Buckle, and with him the historical critics of his generation. Nothing, say the extreme individualists. Carlyle indignantly denied that great men are made or called forth by their time. Many 'times,' he said, had called loudly, but no great man had heard, and those times went down to utter ruin; it is great men who create their time;

the time does not create the man. Emerson went even farther; the earth was round because Columbus needed a round earth for his self-expression!

State Influenced Life

"If Lincoln had been reared in Kentucky, or had remained in Indiana, or if the flat-boat of Thomas Lincoln had floated on to Missouri, Abraham Lincoln might still have risen to greatness, but he would not have risen in the same way, nor have reached the same height. In 1860 Lincoln had occasion to recall the fact that in 1849 Justine Butterfield had secured an appointment to the General Land Office, a position which Lincoln coveted, and that in his disappointment Lincoln considered accepting that consolation prize, the governorship of Oregon. He did not want to be Governor of Oregon, but he considered that Oregon would soon be a state, and the first Governor stood a good chance of being one of the first senators. He reflected as he looked back in 1860 that Oregon could have made him a senator, but never President; and he quoted Shakespeare's lines:

"There's a Divinity that shapes our ends,
Rough-hew them as we will."

"Oregon could have made him a senator; Kentucky or Indiana or Missouri could have conferred honor upon him; but no state could have done for him what Illinois did.

"In order that we may assure ourselves that this is no empty boast, let us recall what Illinois contributed toward the making of Lincoln.

"Let us consider what Illinois did toward Lincoln's education. It found for him an environment that quickened within him the love of learning which he already possessed. Indiana had done much for him. It had given him as his text-books the Bible, Pilgrim's Progress, Weems' Life of Washington, Robinson Crusoe, Aesop's Fables, and a History of the United States by an unidentified author, but one that probably brought the story down to the administration of President Monroe. Those were six great books for a young American. But Lincoln found in Spencer county little to stimulate within him the love of learning. Spencer county did well for him so far as it went, but it did not and could not go far. New Salem did for him what Gentryville could never have done. There Mentor Graham taught him grammar, and there he learned surveying and law. There he came in touch with young men who were studying in Illinois college, and he must have known that even a college course was not quite impossible for him. At one time he owned a book of Greek exercises. He found a debating society and he wrote essays on many subjects. He

left New Salem with a good command of language, a clear English style, the ability to reason logically and to put what he thought into good literary form.

"Illinois politics in 1832 was of such a character that a raw young man could step off a flat boat and announce himself a candidate for the legislature with some chance of winning. There was little concern locally for national issues. Had the political life of Illinois been much farther developed Lincoln would not so easily have risen. His political life and that of the state developed together.

"The development of Illinois as a state with two rival interests, that of her rivers binding her to the west

and south, and that of the Great Lakes turning her face north and east, had a mighty influence upon the state and upon Lincoln. In the year following his coming to Illinois goods from New York were shipped westward by the lakes and were delivered in central Illinois and St. Louis cheaper than they could be floated up the river from New Orleans. Governor Ford tells us in a remarkable passage how Judge Nathaniel Pope, when a delegate to Congress from the territory of Illinois, on his own responsibility added fourteen northern counties to the state to secure a large lake frontage and adjacent territory. He made Illinois the real keystone state in a larger national arch. The unifying of Illinois, commercially and politically, was for Lincoln a task hardly less significant than the unifying of the nation. Even now it is not easy to hold together the interests of so diversified a state, and that is one element in its greatness.

"No other state gave such opportunity as Illinois for the consideration of the slavery question in all its legal, political and moral relations. Lincoln never remembered the time when he did not believe slavery wrong. But as a practical political question he did not know how it could be interfered with where it already existed by constitutional permission. The repeal of the Missouri compromise called him back to political life just in time to affiliate with the new organization opposed to the extension of slavery; and when he came to debate publicly the question not simply of the legal but of the moral status of slavery as a national issue, he found the chief spokesman for the repeal of the Missouri compromise, not far away in a southern state, but here in Illinois. Illinois furnished him a foe worthy of his steel in Stephen A. Douglas.

Illinois Gave Him Stage.

Illinois gave to Lincoln a stage for these great acts in his life's drama which made him the Republican nominee for president. The state convention was held at Decatur, only a week before the national convention, in May, 1860. There still were in the vicinity of Decatur fence rails of walnut and honey locust which John Hanks remembered as made by them. No other state had any such famous fence rails, or such timely opportunity to use them. Northern Illinois had till then favored Seward, but the Greeley opposition to Seward was already strong, and Chicago had discovered Lincoln.

"Whether Lincoln had ever seen Chicago before 1847 is disputed. The Chicago papers, truthful then as now, said on July 5, 1847, that Hon. A. Lincoln, the only Whig member of congress from Illinois, was in the city for the first time attending the river and harbor convention. He was not there in May, 1860; he was too much of a candidate to go and hardly enough of a candidate to stay away. He did not need to go. Illinois shouted him into the presidency.

"Thus Illinois gave him to the nation, but never relinquished her claim upon him; and his old neighbors heard his tearful farewell as he asked them to remember him in their prayers.

"In this month of May, in 1865, Illinois welcomed him back. Then Walt Whitman wrote:

"When lilacs last in the door-yard bloomed,
Over the breast of the spring, the land amid cities,
Passing the apple trees of white and pink in the orchards,
Carrying a corpse to where it shall rest in the grave,
Night and day journeys a coffin.
With dirges through the night, with the thousand voices rising,
The dim-lit churches and the shuddering organs,
With the tolling, tolling bells' perpetual clang,
Here, coffin that slowly passes,
I give you my sprig of lilac."

"Illinois received him back, and here his ashes rest. Edna Dean Proctor, a young woman in 1865, and still living, told the story in lines framed and hanging in the monument:
"Now must the storied Potomac
Honors forever divide;
Now to the Sangamon fameless
Give of its century's pride;
Sangamon, stream of the prairies,
Placidly westward that flows,
Far in whose city of silence,
Calm he has sought his repose.

"Not for thy sheaves nor savannas,
Crown we thee, proud Illinois!
Here in his grave is thy grandeur,
Born of his sorrow and joy.
Only the tomb of Mount Zion
Hewn for the Lord do we hold
Dearer than his in thy prairies,
Girded with harvests of gold."

J. A. S. Journal

There are many stories of the location of the Thomas Lincoln first home in Illinois. All early writers placed it on the Sangamon river bank south of Harristown, which is about seven miles west of Decatur. Abraham Lincoln was of age and did not live at home much of the time. He worked for the neighbors to bring in money and went to New Salem the next year, and Thomas Lincoln moved to Coles county, only living one year at Decatur. So much of the story is generally accepted, but they have Thomas Lincoln's cabin located on various quarter sections. The D. A. R. several years ago placed a marker nearly a half mile from the river. The pioneers quite generally said it did not mark the spot. Within a year Lincoln enthusiasts got the statements of the authorities, compared notes and erected a sign board out in a field about 100 paces from the river. It answers all the requirements. The land is level for at least twenty acres. It is on a bluff some fifty feet above the river bed. The custodian of Lincoln's tomb desired to see the lay of the land and through the courtesy of Robert Loose, whose forefathers were neighbors and coworkers with Lincoln, was on Saturday able to make the trip. He picked up pieces of glassware, broken crockery, parts of bricks in such numbers that the site of a cabin is positively located at the place recently marked. They went to Decatur hoping to get abstract office data, but the office was closed for Saturday afternoon. The librarian of the Decatur Review furnished a lot of data.

On Wednesday, George Runey, a Chicago attorney, was an interested guest. Mr. Haskin in his questions and answers a few weeks ago quoted the Chicago Chamber of Commerce as authority that Thomas Lincoln's Jenesville log cabin was taken to the world's fair and is still standing at Wooded Island, Jackson Park. Mr. Rooney, an ardent Lincoln collector, visited the tomb about the same time and promised to look up the matter. He visited the place and photographed the only building on Wooded Island and it proves to be the Cahokia court house and not the Lincoln cabin.

Prof. W. G. Groves of Carlinville, who visits the place every few months, was a morning caller. His grandmother, Mrs. Miller, lived on a farm near the Lincolns in 1830 and there is a tradition that they could look out of the log house window and see the candle light at Thomas Lincoln's home on the Sangamon river. He will look up their old deed and it may help to positively locate the site of the Lincoln cabin. Different authorities place the location at several localities.

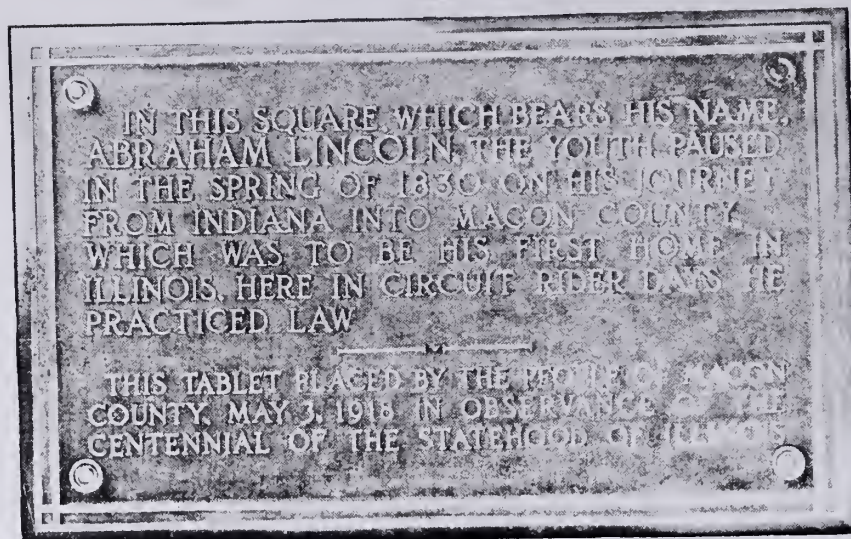
A lot of interest has been awakened in the Decatur Lincoln home. In 1830 Thomas Lincoln and about a dozen people came overland from Gentryville, Ind. They with the aid of John Hanks, who had cut the logs for a log house built a cabin on the Sangamon river. The site is variously located on Section 28 of Harristown township. One site is located half a mile from the river. It is quite generally agreed that stone placed some thirty years ago does not correctly mark the spot but those who object do not agree. A site was marked within the past year where undoubtedly a cabin had been built. This is established by pieces of brick, mortar, glass crockery and it seems to fulfill the first publications.

Illinoisans Plan Lincoln Memorial

A Lincoln memorial program will be given at the organ pavilion in Balboa park Sunday afternoon by the Illinois State society. This will be given at 3 o'clock instead of the regular organ recital.

Speakers on the program will include Itcar Adm. Ashley H. Robertson, Dr. Henry Frank and Mayor Bacon. There will be special music.

In case of heavy rains, the program will be postponed one week.



The Tablet in Lincoln Square.

Where Lincoln Started.

A Lincoln Memorial Tablet Unveiled in Decatur, Ill.

By Rev. Frank Hampton Fox, D. D.

ON May 3 twenty-five hundred people met at midday in Lincoln Square, Decatur, Ill., to witness the unveiling of a bronze tablet marking the spot where Abraham Lincoln first stopped in Illinois. Decatur was only a little village then, and Macon County had just been organized, and Illinois had been a State only twelve years. The population of the State has increased from a few thousand to more than six million, and the village is now the sixth city in the State.

The tablet was unveiled by Miss Kathryn Hanks, a modest country girl of fourteen, a fourth cousin removed of Abraham Lincoln. Her grandfather was mayor of Decatur.

The square is on the spot where Abraham Lincoln stood beside the ox-team which he had driven from Indiana. It was also the scene of Lincoln's first political speech. A short time after his arrival in Macon County Lincoln was ploughing with a yoke of oxen in a field which came up to the square. A Democratic politician delivered a harangue against the Whig party, and was vociferously applauded. Young Lincoln had left the oxen standing in

the fence corner, and climbed up on the fence to listen to the speaker. When the man finished, Lincoln, barefooted, clad in homespun trousers and hickory shirt, with a torn straw hat in his hand, leaped up on a stump and answered the politician's arguments with so much wit and wisdom that the Democratic crowd cheered him more than they had cheered their own partisan. That marked the beginning of the political career of our greatest American.

Later a long court-house was built on this spot, and Lincoln the lawyer won fame on the site of his first achievement. Three blocks away stood the historic wigwam in which the Illinois delegates were instructed to vote for "Abe Lincoln" for President in the Chicago convention.

Decatur, Ill.

Plea for Restoration of Places Made Famous by Lincoln

State Memorial Commission Considers Program
for Preservation of Scenes in Illinois Associated
with Career of Martyr President

By LOGAN HAY

President, Lincoln Memorial Commission, State of Illinois

EVERY YEAR the number of people who visit the places in Illinois associated with the life of Abraham Lincoln increases.

Local communities, and the State as well, have done much in the way of preserving and marking places of Lincoln interest. Yet the feeling has grown that Illinois should mark his life in this State as strikingly as the Nation has commemorated his services in the magnificent Lincoln Memorial at Washington.

In response to this sentiment, the general assembly by joint resolution created the Lincoln memorial commission "to plan for a suitable memorial that will not only represent the people of Illinois, but will, in its design, construction and beauty, be adequate for all people of all time."

The commission was to consist of twenty-one members, five to be appointed by the speaker of the house, five by the president of the senate, and eleven by the governor from the State at large. The members were to serve without compensation, and to report their conclusions to the next session of the general assembly.

The first decision to be made by the commission concerned the type of memorial to be recommended. Should it be a building of impressive size and beauty, similar in conception to the Lincoln Memorial at Washington? Should it take the form of an endowment to some worthy enterprise, charitable or educational?

Or should it consist of the restoration of those buildings and places in Illinois with which Lincoln came into intimate and important contact? Proposals recommending all of these types of memorials were received.

On this point the commission has not yet come to a final and irrevocable decision. However, the members are almost unanimously of the opinion that the most appropriate memorial which Illinois could construct would consist in the restoration of the actual places in which Lincoln lived and worked.

To acquire the Macon County farm, where the Lincolns first settled in Illinois, and restore it as a typical pioneer farm would be relatively easy and inexpensive. Log buildings, log fences and farm implements of the period would characterize it.

The Coles County farm, where Thomas Lincoln was living at his

death, could be treated in the same way, and the more easily since the land is already the property of the State. Taken together, the two farms, thus reconstructed, would possess not only the interest which comes from Lincoln's association with them, but would be visual examples of a pioneer condition through which all Illinois has passed.

The village of New Salem offers perhaps the most unique opportunity. Some indication of its final appearance may be had from the few cabins which the Old Salem Lincoln League of Petersburg was already rebuilt.

It is entirely possible to reconstruct every cabin on its original location, and to rebuild the old mill on its former site at the foot of the high bluff. It should be possible also to furnish at least some of the cabins. When that is done, the visitor will be carried back to a period in Illinois history gone forever.

Illinois already owns all the site of New Salem, and the structures to be erected are simple log cabins. The cost would be moderate, and the result just as striking and instructive for our own State as Williamsburg will be for Virginia.

Illinois also owns the Old State House at Vandalia, where Lincoln sat during most of his career as a member of the Illinois Legislature. Before this building can be made a part of a permanent Lincoln memorial, however, Fayette County, which now uses it as a court house, will have to erect a building of its own.

A recent fire, which damaged the cupola of the Vandalia State House, illustrates the danger of permanent loss which threatens any structure of this kind unless every effort towards its preservation is made.

Perhaps the central feature of a memorial of this kind would be the Old State House at Springfield, for only the Lincoln home surpasses it in the extent of its Lincoln associations. Here Lincoln sat as a legislator, and here he practiced before the supreme court.

Here he delivered several of his best-known political addresses and here, as nominee and President-elect, he occupied the governor's office for several months. Lastly, it was here that his body lay in state before burial.

Once acquired by the State, the Old State House could be restored to its original condition. The hall of the house of representatives could be furnished as it was in Lincoln's time, and

the remainder of the building made into a permanent Lincoln museum.



The Lincoln home has long been the property of the State, and the lower floor is now furnished as it was during Lincoln's residence. In the future it might be possible to refurnish the entire house, and also to acquire the surrounding property so as to create around it a more attractive setting.

In the old court house at Metamora, the former seat of Woodford County, the State owns another structure with intimate Lincoln associations. Lincoln visited Metamora regularly while traveling the circuit, and tried many law suits in this building. Moreover, it is typical of the court house of the period, about which so much of community life centered.

The Black Hawk War—an important formative influence—the debates with Douglas and most of his political speeches cannot be commemorated in this way. Adequate marking, however, would do much to make the sites of these activities interesting to visitors.

The successive sites on which Lincoln camped during the Black Hawk War have been ascertained, and these might be marked so that the visitor who wished to do so could follow the same route. The fact that this route leads through the most beautiful section of the State should add to its attractiveness.



Most of the places where Lincoln spoke have been located, and these, together with the sites of the debates, could all be appropriately marked.

It has been suggested that bronze tablets of uniform design be adopted, and that in addition to mere inscriptions, these tablets contain bas reliefs in order that a better idea of the events commemorated may be secured by visitors. While marking of this sort might well be done under the general direction of some State authority, the expense could be borne by the localities.

The commission believes that a memorial which would consist in the restoration of places connected with Lincoln's life would have several advantages lacking in a physical structure. It would be unique.

Eastern States have done much in the way of restoring and marking places of historic interest, but not, so far as is known, as a means of enabling visitors to reconstruct in imagination the life of one man. Moreover, it would remain unique, for no other community possesses the buildings and sites which make it possible.

***Land Where Abe Lincoln
Hunted Offered for Sale***

Bloomington, Ill., April 22.—[Special.]—The hunting ground of Abraham Lincoln, near Farmer City, is for sale, it was announced today. Eighty years ago Hedrick West, living on a farm near that town, received a letter from Lincoln thanking him and his wife for their hospitality. Lincoln and a friend had arrived on the West farm at nightfall while on a hunting trip and Mrs. West invited them to stay for the night. The West family owned at that time what is now known as the Riddle estate, and this property is for sale.

Cabin Site Hunted

By GERRIE MILLER
Of the Herald-Review Staff

The state is digging into the controversial subject of precisely where Abraham Lincoln lived when he first came to Illinois and, in time, it may end a debate that has raged for more than half a century.

The purpose is to erect a reproduction of the original Thomas and Sarah Bush Lincoln cabin as a part of the Abe Lincoln Homesite Park, south of Harriestown; but the search is complicated by the fact that the original cabin floated around from farm to farm, then from state to state, until it became lost somewhere in the Atlantic ocean.

To date, the Chicago archeologist, Paul Maynard, working with experts and officials of the state department of parks, has to show for its pains four rocks which might have been a part of a barn foundation, several bushels of scattered brick-bats, and a ring-side audience of dubious persons.

Have Removed Sod

To get to the actual digging, which involves removing all the sod and then analyzing the soil for traces of human and other habitation. It was first necessary to unravel a mass of controversial information which has been piling up ever since Tom Lincoln gave up in disgust with his few acres of land above the Sangamon river, deserted the land on which he was no more than a squatter, and traveled off to Coles county.

A little while before that, Abe, having reached his majority, decided to quit the over-crowded cabin, float down the Sangamon to Salem, and become a store-keeper.

There was no controversy about the neighborhood of the site. It was about ten miles west of De-

catur, upon the Sangamon river, and in the wilderness.

Dennis Hanks and John Hanks, cousins of Lincoln's mother, had selected the site prior to 1830 upon which to build a cabin of their own. They had the logs made, and all the material at the site.

Offered Site and Logs

But, pretty soon, Dennis and John decided that Hickory township was better and were preparing to abandon the site, logs and all, when Tom Lincoln wrote that he had at last become convinced that their descriptions of the Sangamon valley were most promising, and that he would bring his worldly possessions and his family as soon as possible.

John and Dennis met Tom, Abe, Sarah and a varied number of other sons, daughters, and stepsons at Lincoln square in Decatur where, history appears to agree, the Lincolns camped for at least one, if not two nights.

Dennis and John suggested that inasmuch as they already had a clearing made at the Sangamon site, and logs prepared, that Tom take over and welcome. Tom, his family, his four oxen, his two wagons, and possibly a cow or two left for the high bluff over the Sangamon. Tom may have been a squatter, but he was by no means without property.

Abe Helped Build Cabin

Lincoln, born in 1809, was about 20 when they reached the site. Working with his father and his cousins, he helped to build the cabin, to its clapboard roof and log chimney and moved in. They are supposed also to have erected a log bar for the stock, and a smokehouse.

That much is accepted, apparently by all concerned. History has no record, of course, of the barn and smokehouse other than a story written by a Herald report-

Cabin

Continued from Page 3

er many years ago—but since that has never been a controversial issue, the historians leave it go at that.

The reason for the home controversy is this: After Tom deserted the land—without ever having bothered to register his homesteading rights—it was promptly taken over by another settler who did homestead it. His name does not seem to be accessible.

It is assumed that this settler removed the fine rails around Tom's fields, and loaded the cabin onto a sledge and moved it over nearer his house to be used as an out-building.

Was Moved About

At any rate, the cabin was supposed to have been on the farm, a quarter of a mile away, which W. L. Whitley bought, and was duly marked as being there on the state's county map of Macon in 1874. Some time later, the cabin showed up at another nearby site and there the D. A. R. erected a marker in 1912.

By 1912, however, the cabin was gone again. About 1865 when Lincoln was assassinated it had been taken down by relatives of Abe and shipped to Chicago for exhibition in England, but it never arrived, being presumably lost at sea, or destroyed in some other way.

Its first location would have been 300 feet north of the bluff on the Sangamon river "just above the old grain mill" which once stood upon the river. The remnants of the old mill are still there.

The second site would have moved the bluff a quarter of a mile northwest.

It is the contention of W. D. Averitt of Niantic, a life-long resident of the district and a student of Lincoln since his youth, that the bluff refused to move around with the cabin.

Averitt Made Consultant

Mr. Averitt contends that the bluff is the original home site, and that he has spent his entire life—he is in his later 50's—studying the matter, interviewing anyone who was even remotely interested in the matter. That took in the old settlers, their sons and grandsons.

He and his mother-in-law, who also lived in the district, were collectors of publishing data and keepers of notes on the matter long before Mr. and Mrs. Averitt were married. What is more, Mr. Averitt's father was born three miles north of the site, and his grandfather had lived there since about 1840.

So systematically did Mr. Averitt argue for the bluff site that when the state decided to erect a

reproduction of the original Illinois home of Lincoln he was called in to act as consultant.

Start Digging at Site

After two years of consultation, the archeologists and park experts stepped off 300 feet north of the rounded bluff. With WPA labor, they started, a couple of weeks ago, to scale off the sod.

This was done carefully.

It revealed four stones, set regularly five feet apart, on a straight line north and south, and all leveled off as for foundation.

They also discovered, four inches below the sod, a large, but scattered, collection of brick bats, all obviously resulting from hand work since all of the bats (and only a few approach complete size) are uneven. Some are glazed and some not. This could have been the foundation under the Lincoln cabin. Even Mr. Averitt is not disposed to guess. What bothers him most is that the bats are scattered all over an area of 50 by 30 feet.

With this done, the workers began to scale off another four-inch layer of dirt. This brought to light an old, rusted piece of iron such as was used on the bottom part of the tongues of wagons drawn by oxen.

No Trace of Other Stones

To date that is the extent of the findings. However, as the excavations are continued, more relics might be discovered.

What puzzles Mr. Averitt and the experts most is what happened to the other foundation stones. If anyone moved them, why didn't they remove the remaining five? There is no evidence that the quintet of rocks were heaped in a fence line because what farmer would leave them so evenly and so levelly placed? Besides, Mr. Averitt says, none of the farmers in the district admits ever having seen a fence there, and there is no evidence of posts, not even of a rail fence long removed.

The plot of ground, added to the Abe Lincoln Homesite Park, and on which the site is located, also has upon it the old James Whitley cemetery, which measures 40 by 60 feet, and in which the Whitneys and their neighbors were buried for more than 50 years. This has fallen into decay, but it is understood that the state will also repair this and replace the tombstones as another of the relics of yesteryear.

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STATE EXCAVATES TO FIX SITE OF LINCOLN CABIN



Abraham Lincoln looked down this stretch of the Sangamon river many a time from

the bluff where his father had built the family log cabin. At 21, Abe went down this river

to New Salem to make his fortune. This scene is the same that Abe saw with the exception of the remains of the old

grist mill (lower left) which, erected long after Abe left, fell into ruins.

(Herald-Review Photos)



When WPA workmen took the sod off what was believed to be the first Illinois home-site of Abraham Lincoln they discovered a large number of broken bricks which might

have been the foundation of the log cabin. Here W. D. Averitt, Niantic, an authority on the cabin's site, holds up one of the largest of the brick bats.

Lincoln's Residence

A Revered Tradition

MACON COUNTY reveres its Lincoln tradition, but the facts regarding Lincoln's activities here are scanty. That he was a friend of the Warnick family, and was a guest in their home in Blue Mound township, and that he wooed one of the Warnick girls, was testified to by old settlers in the seventies.

It was nearly 30 years after his residence in Harristown township that Lincoln became a national figure, and 10 more were to pass before anything like general interest in Lincoln's life developed. Writing of Lincoln biography began to be a mania in the turn of the nineteenth century.

It is known that Lincoln came with his father and family to Illinois in March 1830; that he built a cabin in the Sangamon bottoms southwest of what is now Harristown; and that he moved on later to New Salem. After his removal Macon county held little that was of sentimental interest for him.

That Shoaff Photograph

James Shoaff, the Decatur publisher, and father of Thomas Shoaff of Shelbyville, capitalized on Lincoln's fame by having a photograph made of the Lincoln cabin in the bottoms with John and Dennis Hanks standing in front of it. A label on the photograph is their certificate to the fact that this is a genuine Lincoln cabin.

John Hanks was a cousin of Nancy Hanks, Lincoln's own mother. He had preceded Thomas Lincoln's family in coming to Macon county. It was of the logs which Hanks had cut when he intended to clear Sangamon bottom land that the cabin was constructed. Dennis Hanks was not mentioned as a relative in Lincoln's autobiographical notes. Thomas Lincoln soon went back to Coles county and passed the remainder of his life there. Abraham remained in the Harristown bottoms through the year 1830, and probably departed the next spring.

Cabin Shown in Boston?

Conflicting accounts exist as to the fate of the cabin which he built. To all appearances it was simply a squatter's hut, and certainly no sentimental value attached to it for years. Lincoln became a candidate for President, and split fence rails became campaign symbols, but nothing was said about the cabin.

Tom Shoaff, now living in Shelbyville, declares that, having photo-

graphed John and Dennis Hanks in front of the cabin in 1865, after Lincoln's death, James Shoaff, his father, took down the logs, had them shipped to Boston and set the cabin up on Boston common where he exhibited it. John Hanks accompanied him on this trip and sold souvenirs.

Two Stories Do Not Jibe

An inquiry made of the Massachusetts Historical society by The Herald brought from its librarian, Julius H. Tuttle, the following:

"I am sorry to say that I am unable to find any reference to the exhibit on Boston common of Lincoln's cabin in the '60's or any other time. A important event of that kind, if it happened, would have found its way into the records of this region."

Still another story is that the cabin remained where it was first erected until 1876 and was then taken down and sent to the Philadelphia Centennial exposition. Both stories obviously cannot be right.

The fact was that when the D. A. R. attempted to mark the site of the cabin on the west end of the Scroggins farm in Harristown 25 years ago, there was a disagreement as to the place and the disagreement continues today.

As a lawyer and politician Lincoln

returned many times to Decatur. He recalled that on the journey from Indiana he entered from the south along what is now the line of the Illinois Central, but he never, so far as is known, mentioned his first home in Illinois.

The nearest approach to it was in 1860 when John Oglesby and John Hanks brought to the Wigwam in State street, where the state convention endorsed Lincoln for the presidency, some split rails from the Harristown bottoms. Lincoln declared that if they were not the identical rails which he and John split, they were mighty like them.

'Abe Lincoln Home Park' Suggested as Site Name

The proposed state park to be located on the old Lincoln homesite eight miles southwest of Decatur will be known as the "Abe Lincoln Home park" if state officials accept the name suggestion of Macon county leaders, Alan N. Buck, county superintendent of highways, reported Monday.

Mr. Buck said he received a letter recently from George H. Luker, superintendent of state parks, asking Macon county authorities to suggest a name for the new park. The name Abe Lincoln Home park was decided upon in a meeting of the county's Lincoln park committee, and the suggestion forwarded to Mr. Luker. Mr. Buck said the state usually accepts the suggestions of local governments in such cases.

Highway Completed

More than a year ago the county purchased 200 acres of land for the proposed state park. Approximately 75 acres of the land is located along the Sangamon river southwest of Decatur at a point where Abraham Lincoln lived when he first came to Illinois. The remaining land was purchased for the

Lincoln Memorial parkway, a roadway connecting the proposed park with route 36 west of Decatur.

The parkway has been completed by the county highway department and the park site land has been deeded to the state government for park purposes. The state plans to convert the tract into a state park during the next year.

Bridge Bids Soon

Mr. Buck said last night that the state department of public works and buildings probably will take bids on a bridge to span the Sangamon river at the park site next month. Engineers from the state department surveyed the site several weeks ago and plans are being completed for a new bridge.

Whether a modern type or old style covered bridge will be erected has not been determined. Mr. Buck said he talked with the state officials recently and they had not decided upon this point.

When completed the Abe Lincoln Home park will be connected with route 36 by the Lincoln Memorial parkway and will become a show place of the county.



